



# North Carolina Masonry News



December 2025

Vol. 51 No. 4

The Newsletter of the North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association

## NC State Fair Contest

The 71<sup>st</sup> Annual State Fair Apprenticeship Contest was held on October 20, 2025, in Raleigh, NC. Congratulations to David Hernandez-Herrera from Whitman Masonry for his first-place finish. Congratulations to all the contestants for your hard work!

There were 26 contestants representing nine companies across the state. Many thanks go out to all the sponsors and all the volunteers. Ryan Shaver coordinated the contest, and he expressed his appreciation to all the volunteers who worked so diligently behind the scenes to make this contest so successful. It truly shows the strength of the NCMCA.



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## NC State Fair Sponsors

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***This issue sponsored by:***





Front Left to right back row: Dr. Chris Harrington - State Director of ApprenticeshipNC, Calvin Brodie - NCMCA Contest Chairman, Tenth Place Winner Joshua Holder from Whitman Masonry, Ninth Place Winner Colsen Palmer from Ridenhour Masonry, Eighth Place Winner Jacob Helms from McGee Brothers, Seventh Place Winner Ryan Gaither from McGee Brothers, Sixth Place Winner Nicolas Sloop from McGee Brothers, Doug Burton, Ryan Shaver - NCMCA Executive Vice President, and N. David Smith - Chief Deputy Commissioner for the NC Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Front Row left to right: Luke Farley - NC Labor Commission, Fifth Place Winner Brandt Huntley from Huntley Brothers, Fourth Place Winner Khalib Kennedy from McGee Brothers, Second Place Winner Ramiro Arvizu from Manning Masonry, First Place Winner David Hernandez-Herrera from Whitman Masonry and Third Place Winner Blake Moore from McGee Brothers.



Oaklynn Rogers, daughter of Micah and Audrey Rogers enjoyed her donut while watching the contest. Who says you can't have it all?



Adaline McGee, granddaughter of Cliff & Allison McGee, built her own project!



Thank you to our tenders!



Willard Hodge, Calvin Brodie, David Turner - Calvin's high school masonry teacher and William Hodge.





**Thank you for 32 years of participation and friendships as we are the proud sponsors of the Workers Comp Insurance Program for the NCMCA.**

**John, Hudson, Heidi and Mary-Alera Group, formerly TriSure  
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# NCMCA MASONRY PROMOTION AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR NAMED



THE NCMCA IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE ASHTON FAIRCHILD HAS BEEN NAMED AS THE NEW MASONRY PROMOTION AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR. "ASHTON HAS ESTABLISHED HERSELF AS A TRAILBLAZER IN THE MASONRY INDUSTRY EARNING NATIONAL RECOGNITION AS THE FIRST FEMALE TO WIN BACK-TO-BACK TITLES IN THE POST-SECONDARY SKILLSUSA MASONRY COMPETITION (2018 & 2019)! HER INTEREST IN THE INDUSTRY SPARKED FROM A BEGINNER MASONRY CLASSES HER SOPHOMORE YEAR AT WEST ROWAN HIGH SCHOOL. IN 2022, SHE GRADUATED FROM UNC CHARLOTTE WITH A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT. SINCE MARCH 2023, ASHTON HAS SERVED AS THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR FOR THE TEXAS MASONRY COUNCIL, WHERE SHE TRAVELS ACROSS THE STATE TO INSPIRE, EDUCATE, AND TRAIN THE NEXT GENERATION OF MASONRY PROFESSIONALS. HER PASSION FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND HANDS-ON TRAINING HAS MADE HER A RECOGNIZABLE ADVOCATE FOR THE FUTURE OF THE TRADE. KNOWN ONLINE AS "THAT MASONRY GIRL," ASHTON SHARES HER EXPERIENCES, PROMOTES INDUSTRY EVENTS, AND ENCOURAGES YOUNG PEOPLE TO EXPLORE CAREERS IN THE SKILLED TRADES. HER EXPERTISE AND DEDICATION CONTINUE TO ELEVATE THE VISIBILITY OF WOMEN AND YOUTH IN THE MASONRY INDUSTRY." ASHTON WILL START HER NEW POSITION JANUARY 2, 2026. PLEASE MAKE HER FEEL WELCOME!



## Board Meeting Highlights

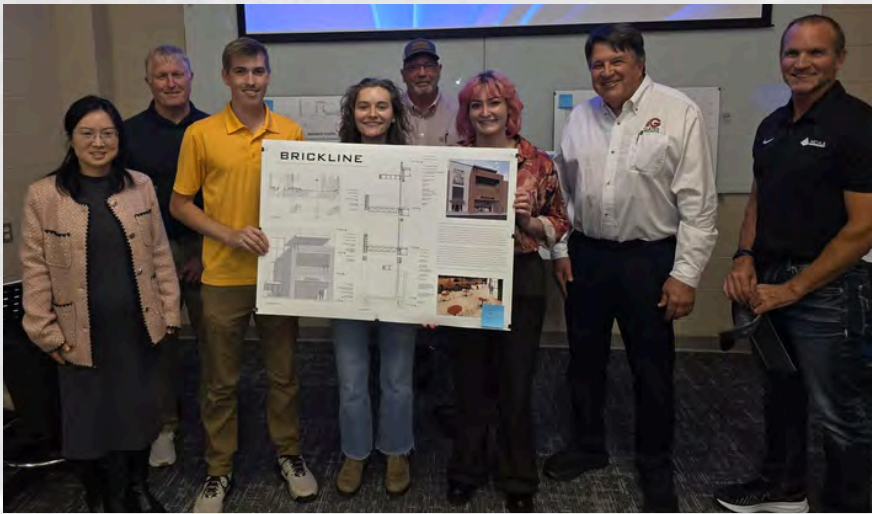
The NCMCA held its annual board meeting on October 30 at Triangle Brick in Durham, NC. The in-person membership board meeting occurs twice a year, once in the fall and the second in the spring at our annual convention. The Executive Board meets quarterly and would like to invite our membership to be involved in all of the in-person meetings. Below are few highlights from the meeting:

- Certification classes held steady with an average of 63 in attendance. We certified 30 new CMP's, 10 CME's, and 2 new certified companies at the October 30th Board of Governors meeting. Series 13 will start December 10.
- Apprentice and Training across the state was extremely successful this year. The contests that were held had a great participation rate and the industry involvement was phenomenal!
- We're very excited to announce that the Board approved to endow The Sigmon Scholarship at NC State University. This year marked our 24<sup>th</sup> year at NC State, 13<sup>th</sup> year at Appalachian State and our 2<sup>nd</sup> year at East Carolina University. This scholarship continues to promote masonry with our engineering, architectural, and construction management students.
- The Board also approved to move the State Golf tournament to Stoney Creek Golf Club in Whitsett, NC to be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2026. Mark your calendars!
- The Convention was held at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville in March, which is a favorite among association members. We were blessed with fantastic weather, and everyone had a great time. We're looking forward to The Hotel Ballast in Wilmington on March 26-29, 2026. Registration will go live January 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The NCMCA received a grant from The Masonry Foundation for \$26,000 for a prison masonry outreach program that will start the Spring of 2026.



# SIGMON SCHOLARSHIP DESIGN AWARDS - APP STATE

The 2025 NCMCA Sigmon Memorial Scholarship at App State was a huge success! Over thirty-five students participated in the competition to design and model a hypothetical masonry in-fill building section as a graded class assignment. The winning project earned the student's tuition awards from the NCMCA Sigmon Memorial Scholarship Fund named in memory of Randy, David, and Dwayne Sigmon. Congratulations to this year's Sigmon Memorial Scholarship winners Sarah Fortner, Emily Martinez, and Josiah Critcher with their masonry design titled "Brickline".



Pictured Left to right: Dr. Quingqing Sun, NCMCA President Cliff McGee, Josiah Critcher, Emily Martinez, NCMCA Secretary/Treasurer Mike Rogers, Sarah Fortner, NCMCA Past President Bob Gates and NCMCA Past President Kent Huntley.



# Sigmon Scholarship Design Awards - NC STATE

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual NCMCA Sigmon Memorial Scholarship was awarded at NC State University College of Design, School of Architecture. There were eleven teams of four students each competing in the design project, and they were tasked with use of modular coordination, innovation, technical performance, and presentation clarity and quality for a masonry facade design. We are extremely excited to announce the winners who earned a semester paid tuition scholarship for their masonry design project. Special thanks to Dr. Grey Isley, for all your outstanding work with your students. Pictured left to right: NCMCA President Elect Tim Manning, Alex Gillham, Davis Bennett, NCMCA Executive Vice President Ryan Shaver, Dustin Vinsel, Tyler Costa, NCMCA Past President Danks Burton and retired NC State Professor Pat Rand.





# MASONRY EDUCATION DAY



The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Masonry Education Day in Gold Hill, NC was a huge success! Thanks to all the vendors and SPEC MIX for making this day successful. Masonry Education Day was held on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at Stalite's Ben Ketchie Park in Gold Hill, NC. The first-place team who won the October Carolina Qualifier by laying over 789 bricks in an hour was the father and son team of Michael (tender) and Mason (mason) Ridenhour. Grant Helms (mason) and Uncle, Keith Helms (tender) won the Wildcard with 774 bricks laid. Both teams will now compete in Las Vegas for the upcoming SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500 World Championship. The regional qualifier was part of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Masonry Education Day. Over six hundred masonry students from across North Carolina participated in hands-on exhibits and competitions, met potential employers, and enjoyed a hotdog lunch provided by Johnson Concrete Products/Stalite. The Two Little Pigs (the third little pig was back home trying to rebuild his house of sticks) were on site building a block wall, when the Big Bad Wolf showed up and tried to blow it down! We all know how that story ends!



2025 SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500 North Carolina and Top Craftsman Winners! From left to right: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place winners Grant Helms and Keith Helms, 1<sup>st</sup> Place winners Michael Ridenhour and Mason Ridenhour, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place winners and Top Craftsman Wriston McGee and Darren Eagle.



2025 NCMCA Jr. Block Layer Team Contest Winners from Columbus Career & Academy. Left to right: Aydin Merry, Abril Baza and Hector Garcia.



2025 SPEC MIX Jr. Bricklayer Winners from Jesse Carson High School. Left to right Ethan Eddings (mason) and Garret Watkins (tender).





This year's instructor challenge winner was Josh Alward from Mt. Pleasant High School.



A very big thank you to Stalite/Johnson Concrete for hosting and grilling over 2,000 hotdogs!



# NCMCA/Metrolina Chapter Recognition Night

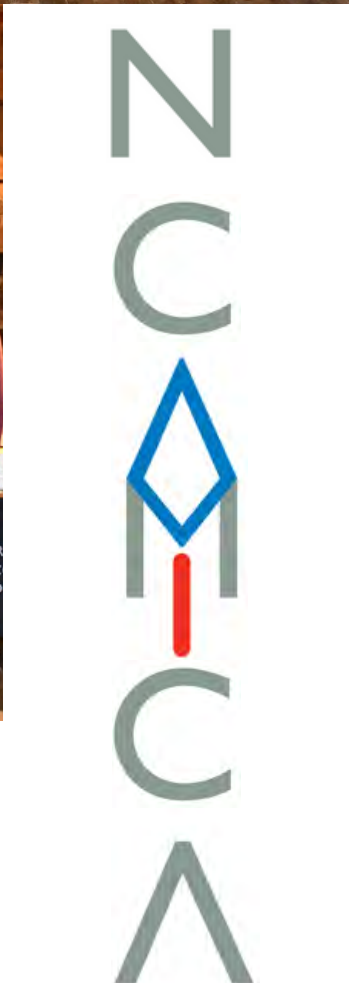
The NCMCA/Metrolina Chapter Recognition Night was a huge success! We were able to recognize our eight Mortar Net Scholarship recipients, who are working apprentices representing multiple companies across the state. We were also able to acknowledge all our outstanding apprentices and students that have won various NCMCA contests throughout the year, including SkillsUSA, Samuel A. McGee Memorial, NC State Fair, and Masonry Education Day. We were honored to have Steven Fechino with Mortar Net Solutions and Margaret Spainhour with ApprenticeshipNC on hand to help commend the great young apprentices. Please join us in congratulating all these fine apprentices from across the state of North Carolina.



Left to right: Tim Manning - NCMCA President Elect, Steven Fechino with Mortar Net Solutions, Emmitt Feijo with McGee Bros, Heudy De La Pez with McGee Bros, Edgar Perez with McGee Bros, Roberto Garcia-Rivera with Whitman Masonry, Gavin Oliver with Michael J. Rogers Masonry, Fabian Morales with Manning Masonry, Elijah Morris with Manning Masonry, Dominic Williams with JB Overman, Mike Doane - NCMCA Metrolina Chapter President, Cliff McGee - NCMCA President.



Jr. Bricklayer 1st Place winners from Jessie Carson High School. Left to Right: Mike Doane NCMCA Metrolina Chapter President, Garret Watkins (tender), Ethan Eddings (mason), Cliff McGee - NCMCA President.



Junior Block Layer 1st Place winners from Columbus Career & Academy. Left to Right: Mike Doane NCMCA Metrolina Chapter, Hector Garcia, Aydin Merry and Abril Baza, and Cliff McGee - NCMCA President.

# NCMCA/Metrolina Chapter Recognition Night continued...



71st Annual NC State Fair Masonry Apprentice Contest Winners. Left to right: Mike Doane - NCMCA Metrolina Chapter President, 4<sup>th</sup> place Khalib Kennedy, 3<sup>rd</sup> place Blake Moore, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Ramiro Arvizu, 5<sup>th</sup> place Brandt Huntley, Cliff McGee - NCMCA President.



Sam McGee Memorial Contest Winners. Left to right: Mike Doane - NCMCA Metrolina Chapter President, 4<sup>th</sup> Place Diesel Hartsell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Isidro Diego Lopez, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Mason Ridenhour, 5<sup>th</sup> Place Maddox Allen, Cliff McGee - NCMCA President.



Photo on left: Mike Doane - NCMCA Metrolina Chapter President, 1<sup>st</sup> Place SkillsUSA NC Post-Secondary and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Post-Secondary National - Emmalyn Sides from Rowan Cabarrus Community College, Cliff McGee - NCMCA President.



Photo on right: Mike Doane - NCMCA Metrolina Chapter President, SkillsUSA Secondary State & National Champion - Dylan Smith from West Rowan High School, Cliff McGee - NCMCA President.



Photo on left: Cliff McGee - NCMCA President, MCAA Skills Challenge Winner 2025 (Vegas) Winner of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Skills Challenge Apprentice contest - Mason Ridenhour, Mike Doane - NCMCA Metrolina Chapter President.



Photo on right: Cliff McGee - NCMCA President, Winner of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Skills Challenge Apprentice contest - Alec Huntley, Mike Doane - NCMCA Metrolina Chapter President.

# CliffsNotes® A Message from President, Cliff McGee



It is hard to believe Thanksgiving is over and we are into the Christmas season with the New Year right around the corner. With 2025 in the books, it is a good time to look back and review some of the things that have happened and look ahead to things that are coming up.

On a personal level Allison & I had our 2 daughters announce their engagements this year with Madeline's wedding taking place in October and Caroline's coming up in June of next year. Some really busy (and expensive) but great times for us.

The NCMCA has had an active year as well with all the normal events completed and in the books. Our next event to look forward to will be our annual convention coming up at the end of March at Wilmington, NC. Hope to see you all there as we welcome our new incoming President, Tim Manning. Ryan Shaver is of course working on new ideas (windshield ideas he always calls them) to keep things exciting & interesting as we move forward into 2026.

I would like to close out by wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Look forward to seeing you all soon.

Cliff McGee

NCMCA President



## RALEIGH/MURDELL 2026

NCMCA'S RALEIGH CHAPTER 37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT, 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MURDELL GOLF TRIP IS JANUARY 16 -18, 2026. REGISTRATION IS ON THE NCMCA WEBSITE. SIGN UP EARLY, BEFORE IT SELLS OUT! REGISTRATION WILL CLOSE 12/31/25. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT DOUG BURTON AT [DOUG@WHITMANMASONRY.COM](mailto:DOUG@WHITMANMASONRY.COM)



# 2025 NCMCA 35TH ANNUAL FALL GOLF TOURNAMENT



To quote Larry Kirby, "The old guys do it again! Ages 60 to 83!" The winning team of Dennis Waters, Larry Kirby, Brian Nelson and Larry Chapman of Kirby Construction Services.

The 35th Annual Fall Golf Tournament in September at Mill Creek Golf & Country Club in Mebane was a huge success! The tournament sold out shortly after noon on the day the registration went live on the website which in turn yielded a great turnout! The damp weather did not hamper things and with the exception of a light shower here and there, we stayed mostly dry throughout the afternoon. Chairman David McQueen expressed appreciation to all the sponsors including Quickrete and SPEC MIX for the barbecue chicken dinner and EZG Manufacturing for arranging the EZG Mudhog Mixer hole-in-one prize (that once again went unclaimed).



Second Place - McArt Masonry Team. Sean Cantwell, Matt Cable, Erik Steuck, Kevin Neuschafer.



This year we had great industry support and participation with several new volunteers to help during the day. We were also fortunate to have Bill Reed, former NCMCA Golf Chairman and Lynn Nash, retired NCMCA Executive Director participate in the activities. Proceeds from the tournament fund the NCMCA Sigmon Memorial Scholarships at NC State, Appalachian State, and Eastern Carolina Universities. Many thanks to the Golf Committee: David McQueen, Dwayne Bryant, Chris Mitchell, and Nick Ferruci.



Third Place - EZG Grout Team. Jake Burton, Danks Burton, Steve Wheeler, Nick Ferrucci.



- Other Winners:
- Longest Putt Hole #4: Dave Moser
  - Longest Drive #6: Patrick Jones
  - Closest to the Pin #8: Bryan Nelson
  - Closest to the Pin #13: Bill Brooks
  - Closest to the Pin #17: Chase Autry
  - Putting Contest at the Turn: Patrick Jones



# 2025 GOLF TOURNAMENT SPONSORS

## PLATINUM SPONSORS



## GOLD SPONSORS



## Meal Sponsors

Quikrete Cement  
SPEC MIX



## Hole in One Sponsor

EZG Manufacturing



## Hole Sponsors

- Carolina Masonry Unlimited
- EZG Manufacturing LLC
- Johnson Concrete Products
- Laticrete International
- Manning Masonry
- McArt Masonry
- Oldcastle, APG
- Pinnacle Masonry
- Summa General Contractors
- TNT Equipment
- Whitman Masonry

## Closest to the Pin Sponsor

- Capital Stoneworks
- Central Piedmont Chapter
- Eastern Chapter
- Metrolina Chapter

## Drink Cart Sponsors

- EastWest Products
- Lynn Ladder
- Maxxon

## Longest Drive Sponsor

- Statesville Brick
- TNT Equipment

## Putting Contest Sponsor

- Mountcastle Insurance

## Platinum Sponsors

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- Blum Masonry
- General Shale
- Alera Group

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- Hohmann & Barnard, Inc.
- Oldcastle, APG
- P & D Architectural Precast
- Palmetto Brick
- Pine Hall Brick
- Roanoke Cement Co.
- Southeastern Contracting
- Stabila
- Tucker Kirby
- Wire-Bond



**NCMCA CONVENTION  
MARCH 26 - 29, 2026**

**Mark your calendar!  
Hotel Ballast  
Wilmington, NC  
Sponsor registration will open  
December 8 and attendee  
registration January 5<sup>th</sup>.**



*Welcome New Members  
Stalite  
D.L. Bianchi Construction  
Company, Inc.*

# 2026 NCMCA CONVENTION SPONSOR CATEGORIES

## MARCH 26 - 29, 2026

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE AS OF 12/3/25

### Platinum

Oldcastle APG & Tucker Kirby  
\$3,500 each

Named as event sponsor for either Saturday morning breakfast or Saturday Convention Banquet and Entertainment event with exclusive signage in event venues. Top-billing in all convention promotion and printed material. Display permitted in registration area.

### Diamond

Four total, three remaining  
General Shale  
Display permitted in venue area.  
\$2,500

### Battleship Tour Sponsor

General Shale  
\$2,000

### Charter Boat Fishing Sponsor

One Available  
\$2,000

### Lanyard Sponsor

One Available  
Sponsor's logo will be on the badge lanyard  
\$2,000

### Convention Golf Tournament Sponsor

EZG  
\$2,000 plus provides major prize insurance for hole-in-one

### Thursday Evening Hospitality Sponsor

One Available  
Display permitted in venue area.  
\$1,800

### Friday Breakfast Sponsor

One Available  
Sponsor allowed brief presentation during breakfast.  
\$1,800

### Saturday Breakfast Sponsor

One Available  
Sponsor allowed brief presentation during breakfast.  
\$1,800

### Gold Sponsor (unlimited)

\$1,500

### Silver Sponsor (unlimited)

\$1,000

### Bronze Sponsor (unlimited)

\$500

All sponsors except Bronze get logos included in all convention promotional material, designated by level of sponsorship. Bronze sponsors receive single-line acknowledgement in all promotional materials. (Provided commitment is made prior to printed material deadlines.) All sponsors will be recognized at the Annual Board Meeting and at the Saturday evening banquet.

# NCMCA CERTIFICATION SERIES 13

MODULE 1 - DECEMBER 10, 2025  
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY MANAGEMENT  
MICHAEL ROSSER  
BILL PARSONS

MODULE 2 - JANUARY 7, 2026  
THE BASICS OF MASONRY MATERIALS: BRICK & BLOCK  
DR. RICHARD BENNETT, PHD

MODULE 3 - FEBRUARY 11, 2026  
MORTAR, GROUT & MASONRY TESTING  
MICHAEL SHULLER, PE, FTMS, FAPT

MODULE 4 - MARCH 11, 2026  
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING BASICS FOR MASONRY PROFESSIONALS  
JASON THOMPSON, PE

MODULE 5 - APRIL 8, 2026  
MASTERING THE DETAILS IN MASONRY CONSTRUCTION  
ROBERT CARMAC, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, CSI, CDT

MODULE 6 - MAY 20, 2026  
BLUEPRINT READING AND ESTIMATING BASICS  
DANKS BURTON, CME

MODULE 7 - JUNE 17, 2026  
MASONRY SPECIAL INSPECTION  
CHRISTINE SUBASIC, PE

MODULE 8 - JULY 22, 2026  
MASONRY ESTIMATING & BIDDING WORKSHOP  
DOUG BURTON, CME

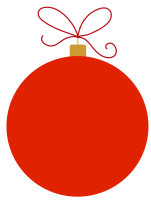


### Eastern Chapter

The Eastern chapter recently had their annual Hatteras Cup Fishing tournament. Carolina Masonry Unlimited took the top prize! Everyone had a great time, and the chapter looks forward to continuing this new tradition! We invite all to come again next year and hope to see some new faces. The Eastern Chapter's next meeting/social will be December 2nd at Sunnyside Oyster Bar in Williamston.



Left to Right - Mike Bailey, Cesar Gamez, Joe Perez, Craig Ostrowski.



NORTH CAROLINA  
MASONRY CONTRACTORS  
ASSOCIATION



### Metrolina Chapter

The annual Metrolina Golf Tournament was held at Emerald Lake Golf Club in November. We had to reschedule due to the weather but still had a great turnout! The NCMCA/Metrolina Chapter Recognition Night was held November 11<sup>th</sup> at The Farmstead in Mt. Pleasant. We had a huge turnout, with over 100 people in attendance. It was a great night to recognize our young apprentices and masonry students.

There will not be a December meeting to allow members time for year-end responsibilities and family commitments.

#### Membership and Engagement

The Metrolina Chapter continues to enjoy steady participation from both contractors and industry partners. However, we would like to see more contractor engagement at future meetings and events.

We appreciate the ongoing support from our sponsors, presenters, and members who help maintain the vitality and professionalism of our chapter.

The Metrolina Chapter remains focused on advancing the masonry trade through community engagement, education, and strong professional relationships. Our members' continued participation and sponsorship have fueled another successful year — setting the stage for even greater growth and involvement in 2026.



## Land Of Sky Chapter

The Land of Sky Chapter meetings this summer have consisted of a presentation from Westlake Stone Solutions going over building codes for stone veneer. We had a social meeting at Binions Roadhouse. Our September meeting was used as a coordination and scheduling meeting for upcoming events. Micah presented a foundation in need of rebuilding from storm damage that caused the home to be condemned and demolished. The chapter agreed to volunteer the labor for this work. A 9-5-Dine event is currently being worked on for November, through this scheduling meeting. In October we had Nathan Ramsey with the Land of Sky Regional Council come and speak to us about the local economy with ties back to workforce development. Nathan is the executive director, as well as the Mountain Area Workforce Development Coordinator for this council. Before the scheduled meeting, we selected a contest for the high school competition that will be held at the Smoky Mountain Event Center on March 13, 2026. We will release the project plans soon to the instructors so that 1st semester students have the same opportunity to practice as the 2nd semester students do. On December 6th we will have our annual Christmas Breakfast at the Mills River Restaurant at 0730. We raise funds every year at this event for families in need throughout the community. Donny Caldwell started this tradition 27 years ago.

We are staying active and showing support in our local high schools that have masonry programs, while also working in schools that do not have a masonry class. We have 8 schools in our region that have an active masonry program. We are working with ApprenticeshipNC to get some students from these programs enrolled already for a pre-apprenticeship next summer.

Micah Rogers  
Land of the Sky Chapter President





## Western Carolina Chapter

The Western Chapter continues to meet bi-monthly. Our next meeting is scheduled for 12-09-25 at Dos Amigos restaurant on highway 70 in Hickory NC. Our attendance has been a little slow this year with 6 to 10 in attendance. We helped with the hurricane H el ene relief effort earlier this year by taking supplies to Mike Rogers's church. We helped with the Caldwell County masonry contest again this year with financial support and manpower during the contest. All 3 high schools in the county participated in the event.

## Central Piedmont Chapter Report

The Central Piedmont Chapter will be meeting at Logan's Roadhouse located at 1300 Bridford Parkway, Greensboro on Monday, Decmeber 8th for Christmas Party.

## NCMCA Raleigh Chapter

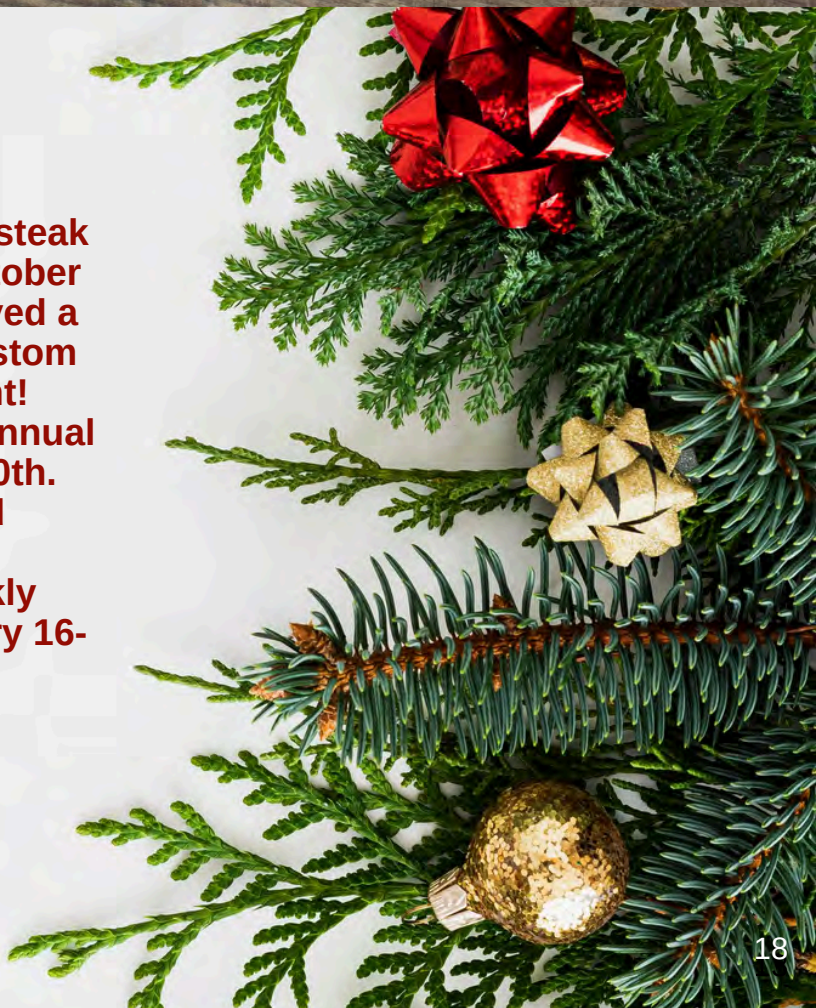
Custom Brick & Supply hosted our annual steak dinner social at Milburnie Fish Club on October 6th. There were +/- 60 attendees who enjoyed a great dinner and fellowship. Thanks to Custom Brick and Supply for another great event!

The Raleigh Chapter also hosted the 71st Annual State Fair Masonry Contest on October 20th.

Thanks to everyone who came out and volunteered their time!

The Murdell 26 Golf Tournament is quickly approaching! Mark your calendars! January 16-18. Email Doug Burton if you dare at: [doug@whitmanmasonry.com](mailto:doug@whitmanmasonry.com)

**Matt Cable**  
Raleigh Chapter President





# Pender High School Masonry Program Spotlight By Roland Dixon



My Masonry program at Pender High School continues to be one of the district's strongest examples of CTE excellence and tradition. I proudly follow in the footsteps of my father who taught for 25 years at Pender High School and next year will be my 20th year teaching. PHS Masonry program—carrying forward a long-standing tradition of craftsmanship, discipline, and community pride.

Under my leadership, the program offers students hands-on, industry-aligned training that prepares them for real-world careers in the skilled trades. SkillsUSA chapter is thriving, with nearly 40 active student members, regular participation in the SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference, and multiple top-performing competitors each year.

Students in the program take on meaningful construction projects that benefit the school and community. One recent highlight includes my students designing and building a brick marquee for the exterior of the CTE building, showcasing both their craftsmanship and pride in their work.

The program also boasts a high number of non-traditional CTE concentrators, demonstrating its ability to attract and support a diverse group of students who discover their talents and confidence through masonry. This year, I have already helped three students secure apprenticeships, strengthening the pipeline from classroom to career.

Strong relationships with local business and industry partners, along with deep connections to the community, continue to fuel the program's success. Pender High School Masonry Program stands as a model of what high-quality CTE can accomplish—preserving tradition, developing future artisans, and building opportunities brick by brick.

I love to see my students learn all about the masonry trade from working in the shop, doing projects around campus and in the community and going to different events such as Regional and SkillsUSA competitions. These events make the students grow and see that other students across the state are learning the same thing they are learning. That inspires more motivation to lock in and to do their very best. My class is competitive, because everybody wants to get the top spot.

I list the top ten students on the board in the class after every project. I allow them to write their own name in the number spot they place allowing them to erase the other person's name. Let me tell you, this is a good motivator to get your kids to better themselves each time. I usually give a prize to the first-place winner. I enjoy seeing them working hard to achieve a goal. As an instructor, I hope I've instilled something in the lives of our young generation that have come through my Masonry Program through the many years I've been here. I quote "A successful man is one who lays a firm foundation with the Bricks other have thrown at him." (David Brinkley)





# *Dates to Remember*

Remember to check the calendar on the NCMCA website for the latest dates, times, and locations for all events!

**December 10, 2025 - Module 1 Certification Series 13**

**January 7, 2026 - Module 2 Certification Series 13**

**January 16-18, 2026 - Raleigh Chapter Murdell Golf Trip**

**January 20-22, 2026 - World of Concrete, Las Vegas, NV**

**February 11, 2026 - Module 3 Certification Series 13**

**February 28, 2026 - Rowan County SkillsUSA Regional, Salisbury, NC**

**March 11, 2026 - Module 4 Certification Series 13**

**March 13, 2026 - Land of the Sky High School Masonry Contest, Smokey Mountain Event Center, Waynesville, NC**

**March 20, 2026 - Oldcastle APG High School Contest, location TBD**

**March 26 - 28, 2026 - NCMCA Annual Convention, Wilmington, NC**

**April 8, 2026 Module 5 Certification Series 13**

**April 15 - 17, 2026 - SkillsUSA Contest, Greensboro, NC**

**May 7, 2026 - Caldwell County Masonry Contest, Caldwell County Fairgrounds, Lenior, NC**

**May 16, 2026 - Sam McGee Memorial Contest, Ben Ketchie Park, Gold Hill, NC**

**May 20, 2026 - Module 6 Certification Series 13**

**June 1-5, 2026 - SkillsUSA Nationals, Atlanta, Ga**

**June 11, 2026 - Central Piedmont Chapter's Golf Tournament, Stoney Creek Golf Club, Whitsett, NC**

**June 17, 2026 - Module 7 Certification Series 13**