

North Carolina



Masonry News

March 2025

Vol. 51 No. 1

The Newsletter of the North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association

Convention Time!
The NCMCA Annual Convention
March 27 – 30, 2025
The Grove Park Inn
Asheville, NC

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The 51st Annual NCMCA Convention is just around the corner! We have 268 people registered to attend this year. Our guest speaker will be former NFL player and First Fruits Farm owner Jason Brown. Thursday night will be the Welcome Reception, with golf on Friday, and the Annual Meeting Saturday morning, and Dinner Banquet Saturday night. Pyramid Masonry Contractors has rented two pickleball courts at the Grove Park for anyone looking for something to do Friday from 12pm-3pm. We look forward to seeing you March 27 in Asheville, NC.

This issue sponsored by:



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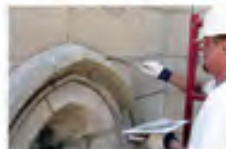
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Golf Tournament Sponsor



Thursday Evening Hospitality Sponsor



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The 2025 Annual Convention is made possible in part by these member firms. Sponsors make NCMCA events successful and help to keep fees and dues affordable. We appreciate all the firms that support association activities with their generous sponsorships throughout the year.

NORTH CAROLINA WINS BIG AT LAS VEGAS!!!

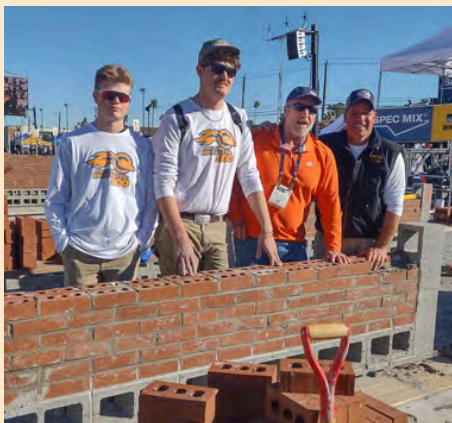
NCMCA was well represented at the World of Concrete, Masonry Madness Day in Las Vegas, NV on January 22. We had seven young men competing in various competitions and they represented North Carolina strong! Congratulations guys! Alec Huntley from Huntley Brothers won in the Third Year Skills Challenge Apprentice Contest. Mason Ridenhour with Ridenhour Masonry won in the Second Year Skills Challenge Apprentice Contest. Ryan Gaither and tender Cameron Grubb won third place in the Junior Bricklayer Contest. Ramiro Arvizu with Manning Masonry competed in the First Year Skills Challenge and Wriston McGee and Darren Eagle with McGee Brothers competed in the Bricklayer 500. Well done gentlemen!



Ryan Shaver (left) and Alec Huntley (right).



Mason Ridenhour (left) and Ryan Shaver (right).



Left to right: Camberon Grubb, Ryan Gaither, Phil Faggart (Jesse Carson High School Instructor), and Ryan Shaver.



Darren Eagle (left) and Wriston McGee (right).



Ryan Shaver (left) and Ramiro Arvizu (right).





RALEIGH/MURDELL 2025



The Raleigh Chapter held its 25th Annual Murdell Golf Tournament January 17-19.

We had 56 participants and raised \$14,000 for the chapter, which put us over \$150,000 raised for masonry since the tournament's inception.

Mark Fairman took individual honors Friday and took his team of Greg Breeze, David James and Tony Capponi to victory. He used his winnings to purchase a Myrtle Beach National luau shirt which did not come off for the remainder of the weekend.

The Brick team destroyed the Block team on Saturday which was a rainy event but was completed nevertheless due to the commitment to the Murdell Capponi rule.

Sunday was the official tournament and trophy award day. It was a very tight contest with 1st and 3rd separated by 2 strokes. The winning team was Chris Surratt, Holden Keen, Jake Burton and Tyler Brooks.

No one claimed the \$1,300 hole in one prize money which will be carried over to our 2026 contest set for January 16-18. Mark your calendar now!



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

Bus Sponsor - McGriff and White Cap

Masonry Sponsor-Brodie Contractors, Cast Stone Systems, Custom Brick, H&E Equipment, McArt Masonry, P&D Architectural Precast, Tucker Kirby, Whitman Masonry.


Horry County Sponsor-BrandSafway, Crocker & Reed, Frank Werner, Holcim, Johnson Concrete, Lee Brick, Pinnacle Masonry, Palmetto Brick, P&D Architectural Precast, Roanoke Cement, Tucker Kirby.



CliffsNotes® A Message from President, Cliff McGee

The letter from the president typically addresses matters related to masonry. However, this quarter, I'd like to use this letter to take a moment and honor Fred Mason—a man whose impact on the masonry industry, particularly as a teacher and instructor, will always be remembered. I first met Fred around 2010, when he started teaching and bringing his students to competitions. From that point on, he became a regular at every contest, whether it was during the week or on a Saturday morning, often driving 3 to 4 hours each way, to give his students the opportunity to compete with their peers across the state. Through it all, Fred showed remarkable humility and class, regardless of whether he lost or won - which he did in 2023 when he took first place at the NC Skills Contest in Greensboro. The way he carried himself in the wins and losses was a testament to the kind of man he was. A question that often gets asked when a tragedy like this happens is “Why did God take him from us so soon?” While I don't have the answer to this question, I am extremely thankful for the opportunity and time I did get to know Fred while he was here. There's a country song by Randy Travis titled “Three Wooden Crosses” that I am sure most of you have heard. This song has been on my mind a lot since Fred's passing. Specifically, the line in the chorus that says, “I guess it's not what you take when you leave this world behind you, it's what you leave behind you when you go.” Fred Mason certainly left behind a legacy—not only through his students but throughout the masonry industry. His influence will not be forgotten and for that we should all be thankful and strive to make an impact on others, continuing to honor the legacy he left behind.





43rd

Annual Oldcastle APG Adams

TOP TROWEL AND LINE BURNER CONTEST

March 21, 2025

A CELEBRATION of MASONRY

The 43rd annual contest returns this year with exciting opportunities for high school masonry students to compete for cash prizes. There are opportunities for all levels starting with the Masonry I contest up through the high stakes Line Burner competition. Be sure to visit the Masonry Industry Showcase to see new products, technology, and the future of our industry.

3 CONTEST EVENTS:

- ◆ Masonry 1
- ◆ Masonry 2
- ◆ Line Burner

Cash & Prizes
of more than
\$7,500

SkillsUSA Regional
Rally & Masonry Industry
Educational Showcase

Questions: Dayana Rodriguez
919-750-5890
Dayana.rodriguez@oldcastle.com



Certification Update & Future Classes

On March 12, Module 4 will be “Structural Engineering Basics for Masonry Professionals” presented by Jason Thompson, P.E. If you are interested in taking this class, please contact Brandy Shaver at brandy.shaver@nemca.com. All classes include lunch and dessert and are held at 73 & Main Restaurant in Mt. Pleasant. Future classes:

Module 5 - April 16

Mastering the Details in Masonry Construction

Module 6 - May 21

Blueprint Reading and Estimating Basics

Module 7 - June 18

Masonry Special Inspection

Module 8 - July 23

Masonry Estimating & Bidding Workshop



Fred Mason, Jr. Obituary

WHITEVILLE—Fred Mason, Jr., 60, of 53 Hunt Road, Whiteville, NC, died Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at Columbus Regional Healthcare System.

He was a member of Fair Bluff Fire & Rescue Department. Burial will be in the Horace Grove Community Cemetery. Surviving are his daughter, Whitney Johnson of Whiteville; mother, Kinie Smith Mason of Boardman, NC; sisters, Pam Geiger of Hallsboro, NC and Rose Pettaway of Massachusetts; brothers, Walter Mason of Whiteville, Albert Smith of Lumberton, NC, and Michael Smith of Chadbourn, NC.

*in
loving
memory*

Checkoff Update from James Cain

President of Southeast Concrete Masonry Association

With any new nationwide initiative, there will be periods of success as well as challenges to ensure programs run efficiently. Moving into 2025, the successful programs from 2024 have received additional financial investments. We have also observed a few programs still working to get off the ground, in addition to launching several new programs for 2025. Below is a highlight of the 2025 programs.

Region Two Programs

Masonry Education Outreach Program – Renewed for 2025. Funding \$254K for ancillary support of the program. Ryan is coordinating agreements with other state associations to advance their program.

Masonry Framed Homes – Renewed for 2025. Increased funding from \$41K to \$125K. SCMA has engaged two subcontractors (Clemson University and Michael Schuller) to assist with the program development.

University Relations – Renewed for 2025. Increased funding from \$125K to \$200K.

SCMA is looking to hire two subcontractors to engage with universities.

Educating Design Professionals Outreach and Partnership Program (AIA) – New program starting in 2025 with \$167K funding. This program is in its initial phase.

Codes and Standards Program – SCMA has agreed to undertake this program in 2025 with an awarded budget of \$221.3K. ARC 3 Communications in GA has been hired to monitor and influence codes across all eight states. A code consultant based in Raleigh, NC will be hired by June.

Block Strong SE Marketing Program

Brand New Region Two Programs for 2025

- Cost Analysis of Competitive Framing Solutions in the Single-Family Segment – Approved request of \$41.8K. Program has not officially started yet.**
- Program Management and Operational Support for RAC 2 Programs and Leadership – Approved request of \$100K. Program has not commenced yet.**
- Home Buyers Pilot Campaign – Approved for \$100K but program has not officially started yet.**
- Support to Hire a Region 2 Technical Director – Approved \$112K as a supplement to hire a Region 2 Technical Director by Q3. This position will provide on-the-ground support in the region.**



New Members
Reading Rock
Prosoco
Elite Property Services
Capital Stoneworks
Custom Masonry Solutions

Eastern Chapter

The Eastern chapter recently had a meeting in Wilmington. Meridian Financial was our guest speaker. Kelly Parker did a nice job of providing the group with financial options for life after laying or selling brick. Fellow chapters, please reach out to Tim Manning or Bryan Overman for contact information if you are interested in having Meridian speak at your next chapter meeting. The Eastern chapter discussed becoming the host for the 2026 convention. A "Welcome to the Beach" committee has been formed to assist the NCMCA with planning. There were "talks" of the possibility of starting a new competition for the fastest trowel on the block. The 42nd annual Top Trowel Contest and 7th annual NCMCA East Line Burner Challenge is fast approaching on Friday March 21st at Adams location in Goldsboro. Your presence is needed to continue the support of these kids and our industry. Sponsorships are still available, please contact Tim Manning for further details. On February 5th the Eastern Chapter, NCMCA and the world lost a great man, teacher and advocate for Masonry. Fred Mason Jr. has passed away. Our deepest condolences go out to his family and friends. Fred you will be missed.

Metrolina Chapter News

The Metrolina Chapter is off to an exciting start this year!

At the World of Concrete, Metrolina's very own Alec Huntley from Huntley Brothers won the 3rd Year Skills Challenge Apprentice contest and Mason Ridenhour with Ridenhour Masonry won the 2nd Year Skills Challenge Apprentice contest. Great work guys! We also had a strong showing in the Bricklayer 500, with another Metrolina member Wriston McGee from McGee Brothers proudly representing North Carolina. This was his third time competing at this level, which speaks volumes about his skill and dedication.

Our first chapter meeting of the year is set for February 27th at 6:00 PM at Old Mecklenburg Brewery in LoSo, Charlotte. We'll be discussing the Checkoff Program and how the NCMCA and its chapters are benefiting from it.

Looking ahead, our next Metrolina Chapter event is planned for April 24th, featuring Meghan McDermott, with High Performance Building Solutions, Inc. The discussion will cover upcoming legislative changes, building and developing best practices, and other industry topics that directly impact our work. Venue TBD

We're also gearing up for the annual NCMCA Convention at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, NC. This event is always a highlight—an opportunity to network, share knowledge, and enjoy the breathtaking setting. As our industry grows, it's exciting to see more young professionals pursuing masonry as a fulfilling, lifelong career. Events like these showcase our commitment to innovation and provide a platform for the next generation to bring fresh ideas and technology into our firms, helping us stay competitive and efficient. We look forward to seeing both familiar and new faces as we continue building a stronger future for our industry!

Lastly, on behalf of all the Metrolina chapter I would like to send my condolences to the many friends and family of Fred Mason Jr. I had the pleasure as did many of you of being around Fred and his contagious love and spirit for teaching young men and women “champions at that” the craft of masonry. I know I will miss chatting with him and especially watching him direct his students.

Central Piedmont Chapter

The Central Piedmont Chapter will be meeting May 12th at Logan's Roadhouse in Greensboro at 5:30. Meagan Elfert from York Flashing will be our speaker. We will also be discussing our annual golf tournament which will take place in June. We'll send more details on the tournament at a later date. We look forward to seeing everyone at the convention!

Western Chapter

The Western Chapter had a meeting in January and Mike Rogers came down for a visit. It was good to see him support us. We had eight in attendance and will meet again in March. The Caldwell County Masonry Contest will be May 2nd. We will be supporting this event both financially and with manpower the day of the contest.

Raleigh Chapter

The Raleigh Chapter met on January 6th at Cantina 18 in Raleigh. Ryan Shaver was with us to share the “State of the State” about our association. Great things have happened, and more great things are coming. Thanks to Custom Brick, White Cap & Holcim, who were our social sponsors for the evening. We appreciate you!

The Raleigh Chapter Murdell 2025 Golf Tournament was held on January 17-19 and is in the books. Thanks to Doug and Danks Burton for putting it all together and thanks to all our sponsors and participants.

Our next meeting will be held on March 3rd at Cantina 18. Pak Yip, P.E., Chief Code Consultant with the Office of the State Fire Marshall will be providing an update on codes as it relates to masonry.



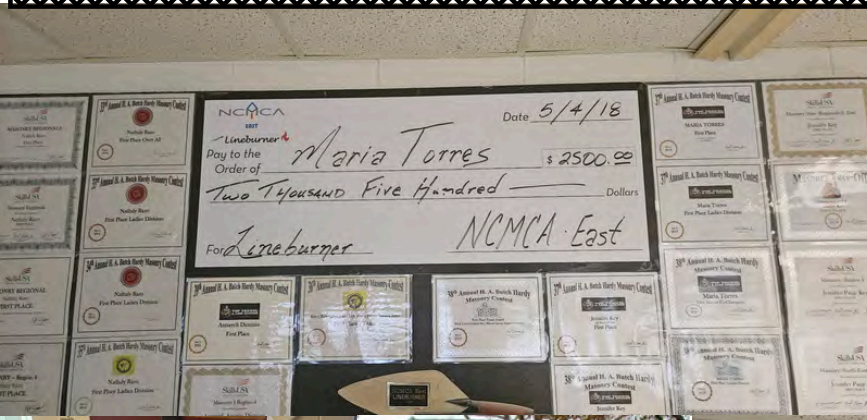
**SkillsUSA NC Southwest
Regional Contest was canceled
due to weather conditions and
has been rescheduled for
March 29.**

Land of the Sky Chapter

The Land of the Sky Chapter is planning for its upcoming high school masonry competition to be held on April 3, 2025, at the Smoky Mountain Event Center. This is the same location as the Sam McGee memorial contest last year. We welcome anyone that has availability to come and enjoy a good day of high school students competing. We will hold our next meeting on March 18, 2025, at the Mills River Restaurant at 6:30. We are currently looking for presenters to come and participate at our chapter meetings by way of presentations. If you have any interest in doing this, please contact Micah Rogers to set this up. We look forward to seeing everyone at the convention!

NCMCA "Program Highlight"

Starting this year, we will be highlighting a North Carolina masonry training program in each newsletter so that our members see the what's happening at programs across the State and can also see the progress of students in training. I had reached out to Fred Mason in January and told him that I would like to start with his program. Mr. Mason taught at Columbus Career and College Academy in Whiteville, NC. Fred agreed to start sending me updates and information for the Program Highlight and the last pictures we would use for the article would be the masonry contest that his school hosted, and Lee County High School would travel down and compete as well. On Tuesday, February 4, I texted Fred at 7:44am and told him to take plenty of pictures today for the Program Highlight and at 7:45am, Fred texted back "Ok, we will". This was the last correspondence I had with Fred, and he passed away unexpectedly the next day, February 5, 2025. Fred Mason was the man I want to strive to be daily. He was a great mentor, encourager, hard worker, and friend! Fred Mason took a new masonry program and built it to a Nationally recognized program with many of his students winning multiple contests, scholarships, and industry awards! He taught his students the importance of a positive attitude regardless of the outcome and how winning starts when no one is watching! As we remember Mr. Fred Mason Jr., may we always remember the feeling of encouragement we all had after being around him! So, the new "Program Highlight" series we will start this newsletter will honor Mr. Mason and all that he was for the masonry industry, not just here in North Carolina, but across the country!





Dates to Remember

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

March 12, 2025 - NCMCA Series 12 Module 4 Certification Class

March 21, 2025 – Adams, Oldcastle Regional Skills Contest, Goldsboro, NC

March 27-30, 2025 - NCMCA's 51st Annual Convention,
Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC

April 3, 2025 - Land of the Sky High School Masonry Contest,
Waynesville, NC

April 9-10, 2025- SkillsUSA Masonry Contest, Greensboro, NC

April 16, 2025 - NCMCA Series 12 Module 5 Certification Class

May 17, 2025 - Sam McGee Memorial Apprentice Contest, Raleigh, NC

May 21, 2025 - NCMCA Series 12 Module 6 Certification Class

June 18, 2025 - NCMCA Series 12 Module 7 Certification Class

June 24-27, 2025 - SkillsUSA National Masonry Contest, Atlanta, GA

July 17, 2025 Masonry Instructor Summer Conference, Greensboro, NC

July 23, 2025 - NCMCA Series 12 Module 8 Certification Class

THE NCMCA SAMUEL A. MCGEE MEMORIAL MASONRY SKILLS CONTEST

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025

SPONSORED BY CUSTOM BRICK & SUPPLY CO.

**HELD AT NC STATE FAIR GROUNDS
IN THE KELLEY BUILDING DURING THE
“GOT TO BE NC” FESTIVAL**

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**REGISTRATION WILL BE ON THE NCMCA
WEBSITE STARTING APRIL 7TH AND CLOSING
MAY 2ND.**

