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# North Carolina Masonry News

The Newsletter of The North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association

June 2022

Vol. 48 No. 2



**Top Ten!** The 2022 NCMCA Annual Samuel A. McGee Memorial Masonry Apprenticeship Skills Contest is in the books. Pictured, top, left to right, NCMCA President-Elect and Contest Chairman Cliff McGee; Fifth Place finisher Cam Hill, McGee Brothers Company; Fourth Place finisher Mason Saunders, Huntley Brothers Company; Third Place finisher Colson Childers, Griffin Masonry; Second Place finisher Cade Huntley, Huntley Brothers Company; 2022 Champion and “David R. Sigmon” Award winner Christian Kluttz, Huntley Brothers Company; and NCMCA President Bo Black. Bottom, left to right, Tenth Place, Joshua Queen, McGee Brothers Company; Avina Rodriguez, Manning Masonry, Ninth Place; Leonard Oconnor, Harrington Masonry, Eighth Place; Carter McGee, Seventh Place, and Grant Haney Sixth Place, both of McGee Brothers Company.

## Kluttz Wins at Colfax

COLFX - An apprentice from Huntley Brothers Company is the Champion of the 2022 NCMCA Annual Samuel A. McGee Masonry Apprenticeship Skills Contest. Twenty-year old Christian Kluttz took home a significant cash prize, a truckload of new tools and the prestigious “David R. Sigmon Award.” Kluttz was among fifty apprentices from thirteen NCMCA member firms participating in the contest hosted by Adams, an Oldcastle® company on an unusually hot day in mid-May at their Colfax facility.

Rounding out the top ten: Second Place finisher Cade Huntley, Huntley Brothers Company; Third Place finisher Colson Childers, Griffin Masonry; Fourth Place finisher Mason Saunders, Huntley Brothers Company; Fifth Place finisher Cam Hill, McGee Brothers Company; sixth through tenth

place in consecutive order, Grant Haney and Carter McGee, McGee Brothers Company; Leonard Oconnor, Harrington Masonry; Avina Rodriguez, Manning Masonry; and in tenth place, Joshua Queen, McGee Brothers Company.

Contestants had two hours to construct a pre-determined panel project, afterwards judged by a team of journeyman masons for plumb, level, production, correct design, range and other criteria. The two-hour time limit makes the Sam McGee among the most challenging apprenticeship masonry competitions in the country. Most such competitions allow at least three hours to build similar projects.

Scores ranged from 13 to 21 for the top-ten. (Scoring is based on “deductions” so low score wins.)

See “Contest” continued on Page #11

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**Danks Burton, CME, Chairman**  
*Pinnacle Masonry, Cary, NC*

**James "Bo" Black, CME, President**  
*Carolina Masonry Unlimited, Willow Spring, NC*

**Clifton H. McGee, CME, President-Elect**  
*McGee Brothers Company, Greensboro, NC*

**Tim Manning, CME, Sec/Treas**  
*Manning Masonry, Williamston, NC*

**Doug Burton, CME, Eastern Vice Pres.**  
*Whitman Masonry, Raleigh, NC*

**Brandon Hartsell, CMP, Central V Pres.**  
*Gates Construction Company, Mooresville NC*

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

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

**Pete Schantz RHU, Insurance Consultant**  
*Mountcastle Insurance, Winston-Salem, NC*

**Lynn Nash, Executive Vice President**  
*Hickory, NC*

**Ryan Shaver, NCMCA WDTC**  
*Mount Pleasant, NC*



June 2022

The Quarterly Newsletter of  
**The North Carolina  
Masonry Contractors  
Association**

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Andy-the-Cat Productions



**New Officers** Elected for the 2022-2024 term (left to right) are Tim Manning, Manning Masonry, Secretary/Treasurer; Danks Burton, Pinnacle Masonry, Immediate Past President and Chairman of the Board; James "Bo" Black, Jr. of Carolina Masonry Unlimited, President; and Cliff McGee, McGee Brothers Company, President-Elect. Not pictured, Doug Burton, Whitman Masonry, Eastern Regional Vice President; Brandon Hartsell, Gates Construction Company, Central Regional Vice President; and Don Caldwell, C & R Masonry, Western Regional Vice President. *Photo by Todd Walker*

## Message From the President

What a day for masonry! The 2022 Samuel A. McGee Memorial Apprenticeship Skills Contest this past Saturday was exciting and hot. Both in temperature and competition. 42 Apprentices from 13 member firms competed and the top three ended with the same score. Christain Kluttz from the Huntley Brother Company won the contest on a tie break of "plumb."

Please join me in congratulating Christian on his victory when you see him.

Thanks to our host Adams/Oldcastle and their entire staff at the Colfax facility along with the Triad Chapter for putting this event on. Thanks to all our member masonry contractors and associate firms who donated money, tools, and equipment. Over \$11,000 worth of tools and \$5,300 in cash prizes were able to be awarded to all competitors thanks to your generosity.

Once again, our WDTC and new Executive Vice President, Ryan Shaver, has outdone himself in organizing, soliciting and putting in sweat equity for this contest. A quote directly from Lynn Nash, "Ryan's work

continues the tradition of the Samuel A. McGee Memorial Apprenticeship Skills Contest as the premier masonry competition in the nation."

I hope everyone enjoys their summer and please catch up on all upcoming events in the newsletter.

*Bo*

**James "Bo" Black, Jr., CME**  
President 2022-2024



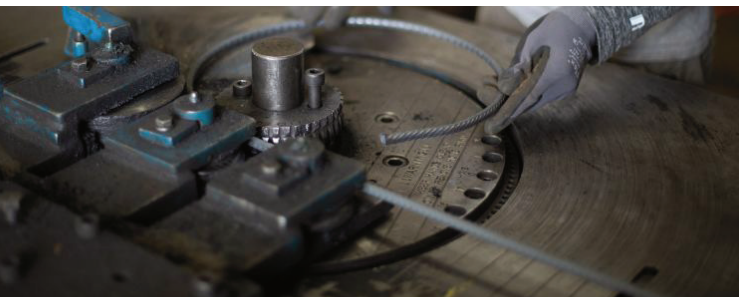
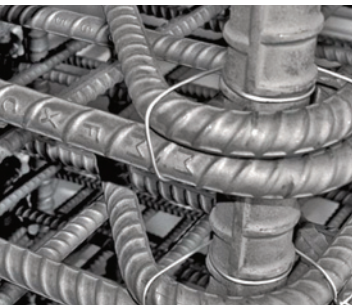
**Congratulating Christian!** NCMCA President Bo Black (right) greets 2022 Sam McGee Memorial Contest Champion Christian Kluttz as he's called on stage to receive his awards.



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## From the WDTC:

# Spring was in Full Gear!!

By Ryan Shaver

With summertime knocking on our door, Spring was in full session this year! We were able to get all of the regional masonry contests back up and running as well as our State SkillsUSA Masonry Contest.

Our masonry instructors across the state have been working hard to get the students' skill set up to what is necessary for them to enter on the job sites this summer.

We have seen the talents of students from across the state shine at the regional events that were held in February, March and April before the State Contest on April 21st.



Ryan Shaver

Four schools were represented in the top-five this year and at press time, the NCMCA has traveled to three of these schools' awards ceremonies and given cash prizes to the students in front of the entire student body, faculty, and parents. This has really shown all parties involved that having a skilled trade is truly valuable.

I had a member of our association at one of the awards ceremonies and his daughter was graduat-

ing from that school with high academic honors and he told me that he overheard parents in the auditorium talking about how their students should have taken the masonry class with all the money they could make!

Our message as a whole is that masonry is not just a job while you're in school, but a true career path to the rest of your life in the trade! I want to thank our association members for this effort to our masonry programs statewide, because without your support this would not be possible!

Our annual Samuel A. McGee apprentice contest went off extremely well on May 21st at the Adams plant in Colfax, NC! We had 42 apprentices compete with 13 companies represented from across the state. Our first year contest was really exciting and we had 8 participants in that contest for a grand total of 50 working apprentices competing!

This contest is viewed as the premier masonry apprentice contest in the country. We had a challenging project that was built in two hours and this would test not only the apprentices' accuracy but also the speed of production, which is what is asked daily from them on the jobsite. These young apprentices battled some tough conditions and showed everyone there how much talent we have in our industry!

I want to thank everyone who made this contest

possible and we have listed all of our sponsors in this newsletter. The boots on the ground guys that helped set up the day before and all the participation from industry the day of from tenders, judges, tool packers, to our host, this would not have been possible without you!!!

I am honored to be able to work for an association that has the motto that the namesake of this contest was famous for saying: "Don't tell me, Show me!"

Thanks to all of you for what you do daily for the NCMCA! It's amazing and we have just gotten started!!

Ryan Shaver is NCMCA Workforce Development & Training Coordinator. Reach him at ryan.shaver@ncmca.com or (704) 791-5240

## Ryan Shaver to be Next NCMCA Executive Vice President

At the March Annual Business Meeting, the Board voted to accept the Future Staffing Committee's recommendation to promote Ryan Shaver to Executive Vice President and CEO of NCMCA effective September 2022. Shaver joined NCMCA in 2018. He is a past National Skills USA Champion, a successful masonry contractor and high school masonry instructor.

## Gary Joyner to be Recognized

The Mason Contractors Association of America (MCAA) has announced that NCMCA Past President Gary Joyner will be inducted into the MCAA Masonry Hall of Fame at the MCAA Mid-Year Meeting August 14-18, 2022 at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

Gary Joyner has twice served as NCMCA President with terms from 1987-1989 and 2012-2014. He has served on the NCMCA Certification Program Board of Governors and is an MCAA Regional Vice President. Gary is the Chairman of the MCAA Masonry Foundation Board of Trustees.

Gary is a "Certified Masonry Executive" (CME) in the NCMCA Masonry Contractor Certification Program and is founder and CEO of Joyner Masonry Works, Inc. in Greenville, NC, an NCMCA Certified Firm.

Gary is one of two Hall of Fame inductions that will take place for 2022. Also inducted will be Mike Johnson of Johnston Construction Co., Inc. in Tacoma, WA. Mr. Johnson is a past president of MCAA.

Gary will be added to the list of North Carolina members of the Masonry Hall of Fame that includes Glenn W. Sipe, Sam McGee, Robert Merrill, and masonry instructor Douglas Drye.



Gary Joyner



**Masonry Featured at Inspectors' Workshops** At the end of March, NCMCA and the Southeast Concrete Masonry Association (SCMA) wrapped up the last of three masonry presentations for the North Carolina Building Inspectors Association (NCBIA) with a workshop in Hickory. NCBIA provides the sessions as a service to its members who are required to obtain continuing education on a regular basis. Since the beginning of the year, SCMA and NCMCA also provided workshops in Greenville, NC, and in Aberdeen. More than 215 participated in the Hickory workshop in person and online. Picture left to right, the committee that developed and presented the masonry programs; SCMA President James Cain; Christine A. Subasic, PE of Raleigh; Doc McGee, McGee Brothers Company; Matt Love of NCBIA; and NCMCA Workforce Development & Training Coordinator, Ryan Shaver.

# Annual Meeting Highlights

The 2022 Annual Meeting in March at Greenville, SC featured positive financial and activity reports suggesting NCMCA is flourishing in every respect.

Treasurer Cliff McGee reported assets as of March were \$945,489.70.

In addition to chapter, officer and committee reports, SCMA President James Cain reported that our block producer partners are enjoying similar success. Our insurance partners, Mountcastle Insurance and TriSure Corporation, gave updates on the NCMCA insurance program and once again made significant financial contributions with checks they handed directly to President Danks.

Pete Schantz provided a report on the Association's health and benefits program: "After a couple of years of single digit rate increases and most employers opting to renew with incumbent carriers, we have seen an uptick in marketing and movement to competing carriers in the 4th quarter of 2021 and 1st quarter of 2022. Claims activity has risen significantly as consumers are catching up on office visits and delayed procedures due to Covid shutdowns over the last couple of years.

"Out of Pocket Maximums for 2022 have increased to \$8,700 individual/\$17,400 family for both Group and Individual coverages which will impact most carrier choices and offerings to reflect.

"We have seen single digit rate increase in the small group market, yet plan designs are a bit weaker in terms of the higher out of pocket maximums mentioned above and higher cost sharing on prescription drug copays. In addition, most renewal alternative options include a separate deductible for Rx coverage – typically \$50-\$100.

"Our 50+ employee market segment has experienced higher renewals percentage wise, yet started in most cases with lower premiums than the small market.

"We expect sharper rate increases in the 3rd and 4th quarter as claims activity continues to climb. It is important to set aside more time to review and plan for your next renewal given these factors.

"The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid announced a major change to the marketplace for individual coverage. Consumers who fall below 150%

of the federal poverty level will have a continuous Open Enrollment for coverage on the marketplace. Currently, other than annual open enrollment, consumers would have to have a qualifying life event in order to enroll at any other time in the year.

"Note: in North Carolina, consumers would have fallen between 100% and 150% of the Federal Poverty level in order to qualify since our state has not expanded Medicaid. The change is expected to take place in late March, 2022."

TriSure's John Cramer reported on the Association liability and workers' compensation program. "For

their mod.

"OCIPS/CCIPS and Sub-guard continue to impact our volume. We do not see an end in sight to these programs. We have been working with clients to advise on key issues with OCIPS/CCIPS: 1) General Liability ONLY OCIPS AND CCIPS are a growing trend and mandatory to participate. 2) Workers Comp should never be in one of these programs if at all avoidable. You lose control of your employee's claim and your future Experience Mod. 3) YOU MUST ENROLL ALL YOUR SUBS! If you fail to, you are in breach of contract and most likely totally UNINSURED! 4) When in doubt, call me!

"2022 - Key things to protect your company and future insurance costs: 1) Safety, Early Return/Light Duty programs. 2) Written sub contract agreements on every job or blanket basis with proper risk transfer. (Additional Insured Status, Waiver of Subrogation and Primary/Non-Contributory wording as a minimum. KEEP CURRENT CERTIFICATES THAT HAVE RISK TRANSFER WORDING. 3) No texting and hands-free driving policies that are enforced. 4) Train on Silica, Scaffold/Fall Protection and Powered Lift Truck.

Officers were elected for the 2022-2024 term. Danks Burton is now Chairman of the Board, James "Bo" Black, Jr. of Carolina Masonry Unlimited is



**Convention Speakers** Peyton Holland (left,) Executive Director of the National Technical Honor Society, and Christine Subasic, a Raleigh-based Architectural Consulting Engineer who just completed her term as The Masonry Society's first female president and only the second from North Carolina, addressed members attending the March convention's first General Session.

the first quarter of 2022 the construction segment seems to be holding strong in what was expected to be a bit of a downturn. Material delays and skyrocketing pricing is causing delays on some private projects. Hopefully this will result in a release of pent-up demand later in 2022. It does appear that for the time being, COVID is no longer the lead story in the news. Let's hope it stays that way.

"Masonry contractors are continuing to subcontract more work than in previous years. I continue to stress the importance of proper written agreements with Subcontractors. Make sure your company has properly reviewed subcontract agreements and/or purchase orders in place. If in doubt, please contact us and we will be happy to assist.

"Experience Mods continue to fluctuate wildly. One claim can easily push a client in excess of 1.00. We will continue to emphasize the importance of Early Return To Work and Light Duty programs for our clients and demonstrating how this reduces

president, Cliff McGee of McGee Brothers Company is president-elect, and Tim Manning of Manning Masonry is the new secretary/treasurer. Doug Burton of Whitman Masonry, Brandon Hartsell of Gates Construction Company, and Don Caldwell of C & R Masonry each retained their positions as NCMCA regional vice-presidents. The board approved present Workforce Development & Training Coordinator (WDTTC) Ryan Shaver for promotion to NCMCA Executive Director and Executive Vice President effective September 2022 when Lynn Nash steps down from that position to prepare for retirement in May 2023.

Bob Gates of Gates Construction Company was approved for another three-year-term serving on the Certification Program Board of Governors. New President Bo Black announced that Doug Burton, Whitman Masonry, will continue to serve as Certification Board of Governors Chairman until 2024, a post Doug has held since the creation of the

program in 2006.

Several chapters announced pledge payments at the meeting. Raleigh and Metrolina each confirmed \$10,000 payments to the workforce development initiative and Raleigh, Eastern Carolina, and the Western Carolina Chapters each confirmed \$3,000 payments to the Executive Office Fund. Since the first of the year, the Central Piedmont Chapter confirmed a \$6,000 payment to the office pledge fund and Metrolina confirmed a \$7,000 payment.

Ryan Shaver introduced two of his former masonry students from 2012, Daniel Furr and Chris Almond, who told stories of being in Shaver's masonry class at Mount Pleasant High School and working with him on jobs. Shaver stated that Furr and Almond are examples of workforce recruitment at its best.

Shaver provided attendees with hard hats furnished by Tucker-Kirby Company and invited everyone to follow his example and write words in their hard hats that represent what is important to them. Ryan's examples were, "God, family, mentor."

Shaver introduced Dr. Nolan E. Fahrner, Trade, Technology, Engineering, and Industrial Consultant, Career and Technical Education with the NC Department of Public Instruction who talked about his office's partnership with Ryan and NCMCA in revising and improving the state's school masonry curriculum and in creating new programs targeting younger students. Dr. Fahrner stated that masonry is far ahead of other construction trades in working with DPI and schools to partner in providing successful construction career training. Fahrner said he heard from Ryan the first week he started at DPI and, "I still haven't heard from some of my other construction trades."

Mason Contractors Association of America (MCAA) Chairman Larry Vacala and MCAA President Jeff Buczkiewicz provided MCAA updates encouraging everyone to participate in upcoming national activities, especially the August 14 to August 18, 2022 mid-year meeting at the Grand Geneva Resort and Spa at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Jeff provided a legislative and OSHA update noting trends of concern. Jeff reported the Masonry Foundation has provided grants totaling approximately \$535,000 in the last four years. NCMCA has received \$75,000 in Masonry Foundation grants for the workforce development initiative over the last three years.

The nineteen member firms that voluntarily pay double their annual NCMCA membership dues ("Distinguished" & "Leadership" members) were recognized:

- Brodie Contractors\*
- Carolina Masonry Unlimited\*
- Cherokee Masonry\*
- Edgar Boettcher Masonry\*
- Gates Construction\*
- Huntley Brothers Company\*
- Jollay Masonry\*

- Joyner Masonry Works\*
- Kirby Construction Services\*
- LPS Enterprises\*
- Manning Masonry\*
- McGee Brothers Company\*
- Mountcastle Insurance
- Pinnacle Masonry\*
- Roanoke Cement Company
- Rush Construction\*
- SPEC MIX\*
- TriSure Corporation
- Whitman Masonry\*

(\*Double dues and also maintain MCAA membership.)

Attorney Tom Davis provided a legal update: "On January 26, 2022, Governor Roy Cooper signed into law Senate Bill 219 (previously House Bill 820) creating substantial changes to North Carolina construction law. These statutory changes went into effect on March 1, 2022. These revisions are directed at, among other things, lien waivers, attorneys' fees in construction lien disputes, and design-build contracting procedures.

"Prior to the enactment of SB 219, it was permissible under North Carolina law for an Owner to require of a General Contractor (or a General Contractor to require of a Subcontractor) a lien waiver which included future claims in order to receive undisputed progress payments for work completed. If the lien waiver was not a condition precedent to the Contractor or Subcontractor obtaining the work originally, such a lien waiver including future claims was enforceable.

"The new legislation, however, makes in-state lien waivers subject to specific limitations. The revised lien statute states: 'Provisions in lien waivers...purporting to require a promisor to submit a waiver or release of liens or claims as a condition of receiving interim or progress payments due from a promise...are void and unenforceable unless limited to the specific interim or progress payment actually received by the promisor in exchange for the lien waiver.' This new statute makes a lien waiver unenforceable unless the party waiving its lien rights receives payment for the amount waived. The statute makes two exceptions to the unenforceability of a full lien waiver effecting future claims: (1) a lien waiver for final payment; and (2) a settlement agreement resolving disputed claims identified in writing.

"The award of attorney fees in cases involving construction lien and other disputes has been available for a number of years for the party prevailing in a lawsuit. Unfortunately, it was often difficult for the Court to determine the 'prevailing party' in instances where there were claims and counter-claims by all parties to an action resulting in 'split' decisions in litigation and arbitration. New revisions to the attorney fee statute now specifically define who constitutes a "prevailing party" in litigation or arbitration.

"New statutory language identifies the 'prevailing party' in a dispute as the party whose original monetary demand, at the start of the proceedings in litigation or arbitration, was closest to the amount of the judgment or award. Additionally, if a party serves an Offer of Judgment or a written settlement offer at least 30 days prior to trial or arbitration, the amount of the Offer or settlement proposal will be considered as the party's monetary position for purposes of determining the amount in controversy and the prevailing party."

Past President Larry Kirby requested NCMCA explore the possibility of creating a by-laws change to allow for a new category of membership. The new category would be for individuals like Larry who are retired and who have shut down a masonry contracting firm but who wish to remain active in the Association. In addition to himself, Larry said that situation applies to a number of individuals presently active in the Association. President Danks endorsed the idea, welcoming the continued active participation of such individuals. Danks appointed Larry as the exploratory committee chairman.

President Danks took note of all that was discussed at the meeting and how much is going on with NCMCA, saying, "If anyone questions what the heck this association does, well, they should sit in this room one Saturday morning when we have this annual meeting. I think we could have gone on for several more hours."

Newly elected President Bo Black took the opportunity to thank Danks for his service as President and Kent Huntley for his eight years serving on the executive committee.

Bo tentatively set the date for the next board meeting for Wednesday, September 7, 2022.

## Welcome New Members

### Marshalltown

Kim Haley (A1)  
Marshalltown, IA  
[www.marshalltowncom](http://www.marshalltowncom)  
Recruited by Ryan Shaver

### Belden Brick

Tate Marks  
Metrolina Chapter (A1)  
Canton, OH  
[www.beldenbrick.com](http://www.beldenbrick.com)  
Recruited by Brandon Hartsell

### Phipps Masonry

Christopher Phipps  
Metrolina Chapter (R1)  
Charlotte, NC  
Recruited by Ryan Shaver

### Glenn Ridenhour Masonry

Michael Ridenhour  
Metrolina Chapter (R1)  
Rockwell, NC  
Recruited by Ryan Shaver

# Meet President Bo Black

James W. "Bo" Black, Jr. is NCMCA's twenty-seventh President, elected to that post at the March Annual Business Meeting. He owns and manages Carolina Masonry Unlimited, Inc. based in Fuquay-Varina.

Bo and his wife of thirty-three years, Paige, have four children; Chris (31), Kelly(29), Aaron(27) and Trey(19) and one grandson, Isaiah.

He has lived in Fuquay or the surrounding area for most of his life. The family is active in a local church and Bo served as teacher of the Royal Ambassador group of 3rd-5th graders for over 20 years. He served on the board and coached baseball for Garner Baseball for the past decade.

Bo says, "I started my lifelong involvement with masonry at the age of 15. I worked in agriculture on a local farm with my grandmother during the summers prior to that and wanted to try something different. My new neighbor, Mr. Steve Slate, was a stonemason and ran a company called Sunrise Stoneworks. Steve offered me a job and I fell in love with masonry. Over the next six summers and some weekends, I learned the trade and completed somewhat of an

apprenticeship. The work ethic given to me by my parents and Steve's love of masonry and people had a lasting effect on me and how I would form my career in masonry."

Bo attended the University of North Carolina



**Bo and Paige Black**

Chapel Hill from 1988-1992 and studied English Literature and aspired to be a teacher. He says, "After discovering that a teacher's salary was similar to what I was already making as a mason, I decided

to continue a career in the masonry trade I loved."

After working a brief stint with local residential masonry contractor JRW Masonry, run by Robbie Wheeler, Bo started on his own in 1992 with a borrowed mixer, wheelbarrow, tools and truck. Bo recalls, "I will always remember Robbie's willingness to help me pursue my dream. J.W. Black &

Co., Inc. was a small residential masonry company that eventually started doing light commercial work in the late 1990s. I formed Carolina Masonry Unlimited, Inc. (CMU) in 2003 with a partner who I eventually bought out in 2011." CMU specializes in commercial masonry construction in eastern North Carolina.

Bo says, "I have always had a passion for masonry and for teaching. Whether it's the Bible, baseball or masonry, I have always taken time to teach others the skills that I find important in my life."

President Bo has been a member of NCMCA for twenty years, and has been active for the past fifteen years. Bo says, "I started taking a leadership role in the Raleigh Chapter serving as Eastern Regional Vice President and currently as Raleigh Chapter president. I have enjoyed my role as Secretary/Treasurer and President-Elect and look forward to the challenges of the Presidency. I am excited about the role our association has taken in actively pursuing young people for a career in masonry. Prior NCMCA leadership had exceptional vision to chart a path to funding and creating the role of Workforce Development & Training Coordinator (WDTC) and I look forward to participating in continuing this vision in securing our future workforce."

President Bo has the designation of "Certified Masonry Executive" (CME) in the NCMCA Masonry Contractor Certification Program. Carolina Masonry Unlimited is an NCMCA Certified Firm.



**Eastern Carolina Chapter Workday** In April, the NCMCA's Eastern Carolina Chapter held a fundraising project to replenish the chapter's treasury. Chapter members used supplies donated by NCMCA associate member companies to build dugouts at Riverside High School in Williamston. Participating firms were Manning Masonry, Rush Masonry Management, J.B. Overman Masonry, Carolina Masonry Unlimited, R.E. Harris Masonry, Joey Ellison Masonry, Adams/Oldcastle, EastWest Products, Holcim, and Shaw's Barbecue. NCMCA President Bo Black and NCMCA's Ryan Shaver were on hand for the fun. *Photo by Misty Joyner*

**NCMCA Annual  
Fall Golf Tournament  
Thursday  
September 22, 2022  
Mill Creek Golf Club  
Mebane, NC**



**NC SkillsUSA Results** Anderson Pruet is the new Secondary State Champion of the 2022 NC SkillsUSA Masonry Competition. The contest was held in April at the Greensboro Coliseum with forty-eight students participating in the Masonry II division. Pictured, bottom left to right, Austin Mullins, Mt. Pleasant High School, 5th place; Nathaniel Myers, North Stanly High School 2nd place; Annayeli Dionisio, Columbus Career and College Academy 3rd place; Israel Bugarin Columbus Career and College Academy 4th place; and NCMCA's Ryan Shaver. Top, left to right, NCMCA President Bo Black; Cody Alward, Instructor at Mt. Pleasant High School; Matt Almond, Instructor at North Stanly High School; Anderson Pruet 1st place Champion, West Rowan High School; Rodney Harrington, Instructor West Rowan High School; Fred Mason, Instructor Columbus Career and College Academy; and NCMCA's Kent Huntley, Contest Chairperson, and MCAA Secretary/Treasurer, Past-NCMCA Chairman and President. Mason Ridenhour of East Rowan High School finished "First Place" in the Masonry One contest and Cody Landahl of Mt. Pleasant High School won the masonry estimating competition. Pruet will represent North Carolina in the Atlanta National SkillsUSA Masonry Championship in June.

## ***Student Masonry Competitions Around the State***



**A Tradition Continues** In March, Adams/Oldcastle hosted their 40th Annual Masonry Top Trowel/Lineburner Contest for high school masonry programs in the eastern part of the state in Goldsboro, co-hosted by the NCMCA Eastern Carolina Chapter. Pictured, the winners of the "Top Trowel Contest," bottom, left to right, Israel Bugarin, second place; Annayeli Dionisio, first place; and Leslie Maldonado, third place, all three from Columbus Career & College Academy. Top, left to right, Lineburner Chairman Tim Manning; Juan Valdivia of North Pitt High School, Top Trowel fourth place; Columbus Career & College Academy masonry instructor Fred Mason; Top Trowel fifth place finisher Kaylyn Stover of Columbus Career & College Academy; Gary Hensley, Adams/Oldcastle; and NCMCA Eastern Chapter President Kendra Blackmon. Annayeli Dionisio also won the "Lineburner contest followed respectively by Juan Valdivia, North Pitt High School, Pitt County Tradesformer program in second place; and Kailyn Stover, Columbus Career & College Academy in third place. Aidyn Merry, Columbus Career & College Academy won the Masonry One competition. Columbus Career & College Academy won the overall school team competition. Five schools participated in the event. *Photo by Macy Williams.*



**Rowan County Regional** Anderson Pruett of West Rowan High School is the Champion of the February SkillsUSA Southwestern Regional Masonry II Competition held at Salisbury. Pictured left to right, Jack Victor, Pyramid Masonry Contractors; Ryan Shaver, NCMCA; Fourth Place Finisher Nicholas Sloop, West Rowan High; Third Place Finisher Aden Toledo, Jesse Carson High; winner Anderson Pruett; West Rowan High School Masonry Instructor Rodney Harrington; Second Place Finisher Nathaniel Myers, North Stanly High School; Fifth Place Finisher Aaron Russel, West Rowan High; Dalton Reynolds, McGee Brothers Company; and Dr. Holly Pore, Career and Technical Education Director, Rowan-Salisbury School System. Oconnor Leonard won the block laying competition and Corban Nations finished First Place in the Masonry I contest. (Not pictured.) Both are students at West Rowan High School.



**Wilkes County Contest** At the SkillsUSA Northwest regional in February at Wilkes Community College, Jakob Patterson (left) and his instructor Scott Settlemyre (right) of South Caldwell High School, took home top honors in the Masonry II contest. Jimmy Olmedo Garcia of J.E. Kennedy High School took top honors in the Masonry I contest. *Photo by Ryan Shaver*



**Mountain Contest** In early May, The NCMCA Land of the Sky Chapter conducted a very successful masonry competition for high schools in western North Carolina. Mason Collins, a senior at McDowell High School, is the 2022 Champion. Pictured, top, left to right, Land of the Sky Chapter President Gary Kitchen; Tuscola High School instructor Eric Sollie; East Henderson High School instructor Stanley Stepp; McDowell High School instructor Chad Brewer; Brevard High School instructor Colby Guice; and NCMCA Western Regional Vice President Don Caldwell. Bottom, left to right, Fourth Place Finisher Johnny Chubb, Tuscola High School; Third Place Finisher Jesus Pacheco Cera, East Henderson High School; First Place Finisher and Contest Champion Mason Collins; Second Place Finisher Rachel Wiener and Fifth Place Finisher Tyler Glance both of Brevard High School. Not pictured, Andy Brown of Tuscola High School who won First Place in the First Year Division competition. Six schools participated in the event at the Haywood County Fair Grounds.

## Member News

The March issue of MCAA's Masonry magazine featured a three-page article with pictures about what's happening with NCMCA. The piece is a nice recognition of what Ryan Shaver and the rest of us have been accomplishing lately. Page 38. The March issue also includes an interview with Huntley Brothers' apprentice Mason Saunders who won the MCAA second year division skills challenge in January at Las Vegas. Page 52.

Adams/Oldcastle hosted the NCMCA Eastern Carolina Chapter in February at their facility in Jacksonville. Dana Martini of Superior Clay Products provided product and installation demonstrations for fireplaces and bake ovens.

Retired SCMA President Paul LaVene turned eighty-years-old on March 13th.

Johnny Dean Greene passed away unexpectedly March 13th. He was retired from Master Masonry as a superintendent and lived in Sawmills near Hickory.

NCMCA's Ryan Shaver is featured in a MCAA "Masonry" magazine article by Chris Rodermond titled "Working Across the Generations."

Past President Gary Joyner's father passed away March 24th. William Francis "Frank" Joyner Jr. was 101 and lived in Goldsboro.

Ryan Shaver's sister passed away March 21st after a long battle with cancer. Lori Shaver Love was 54 and lived in Mount Pleasant. The family suggests please consider donating to PinkPals NC Breast Cancer Support Group at P.O. Box 1816 Concord, NC 28025 in Lori's memory.

a great supporter of NCMCA. Joe says his father spent over forty years in the brick and masonry industries. Charles Ronald Griffin was 75 and lived in Chapel Hill.

Land of the Sky Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Jake Brogdon and his wife Victoria have their first child. James Andrew Brogdon was born April 9th.

Ray Wall, Custom Brick & Supply and Allison Hayes, Triangle Brick, are engaged.

Jimmy Johnson, Jim BricksIt, lost his wife to cancer on April 13th. Ruth Pierce Johnson was 87 and lived in Cary.

The Late Sam McGee's grandson, Kale Hallman, has begun his new job as Workforce Development and Recruitment director for McGee Brothers Company. Kale will be working with NCMCA's Ryan Shaver to take advantage of Ryan's experience in workforce development. NCMCA invites other firms to do the same. It's a big state and Ryan can't do it all by himself. NCMCA can greatly extend our reach by helping to develop workforce development initiatives within member firms. Reach Kale at (704) 776-3308.

Jim Lowery passed away on May 2nd. Mr. Lowery retired as Vice President of Adams Products Company in 1991. James Henry Lowery was 93.

EastWest Products along with members of the NCMCA Eastern Carolina Chapter, hosted North Lenoir High School and Richlands High School May 10th for a Masonry Field Day at EastWest's Kinston headquarters. Some sixty students participated.

The May issue of MCAA's Masonry magazine features an article about award-winning Huntley

Brothers' apprentice Mason Saunders on page #34.

Metrolina Chapter President and NCMCA Central Region Vice President Brandon Hartsell recently earned his North Carolina general contractors license.

In May, past North Carolina National Post Secondary SkillsUSA Masonry Champion Ashton White graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a degree in Construction Management. Ashton is sometimes known as "That Masonry Girl."

Past President Larry Kirby shot even par and his age at the Lenoir Golf Club on May 18th. Larry says, "I may never do that again."

Mike Rogers, Michael Rogers Masonry, sends this family update: "As the Rogers Boys are growing into adulthood so goes our family! On April 22 we gained a daughter-in-law to our son Isaac. Isaac and Anna were married in Georgia and went for a weeklong honeymoon to Destin, Florida. On May 18th, Micah and Audrey welcomed Oaklynn Grace Rogers into the world! Our first granddaughter, and

the long streak of boys is over in the Rogers Family! Mom and baby are doing well!" Congratulations to Connie and Mike.

In May, McGee Brothers Company's new workforce development coordinator, Kale Hallman, with the help of lot of folks, organized a Masonry Job Fair at the firm's Midland facility. Six schools and a hundred students participated, enjoying tours, competitions, demonstrations, pizza and homemade ice cream. (Kale is off to a good start with his new assignment!)

Our friend and colleague Tina Subasic will be recognized as a "Fellow" at The Masonry Society's October annual meeting in Denver. To qualify for Fellow Membership status, a TMS Member must have made outstanding contributions to the Society and have been a Member for no less than ten consecutive years. Ms. Subasic, a consulting architectural engineer from Raleigh served as the first female president of TMS and only the second TMS president from North Carolina. (Professor J. Patrick Rand was the first.) She was a featured speaker at the March NCMCA convention and is an instructor in the NCMCA Masonry Contractor Certification Program class series.

*News from the Carolina masonry community for publication in "Member News" is always welcomed. Medical and other personal news is not shared unless the individuals concerned have confirmed their approval for publication. Send member news to information@ncmca.com or call the NCMCA office.*

## Dates to Note

- 6/16/22 Metrolina Chapter "Steak on the Lake," Stalite's Ben Ketchie Park, Gold Hill
- 6/19-6/22/22 Southeast Concrete Masonry Association Annual Conference – St. Simons Island, GA
- 6/20-6/24/22 National SkillsUSA Conference - Atlanta
- 7/18/22 NC DPI T & I Summer Conference Masonry Day – Greensboro
- 7/28/22 Certification Module 11 "Construction Leadership Boot Camp" Marriott GSO - Greensboro
- 8/14-8/18/22 MCAA Mid-Year Meeting, Grand Geneva Resort & Spa - Lake Geneva, Wisconsin
- 8/30-8/31/22 "Masonry Quality Institute" (MQI) Certification Class, Marriott GSO - Greensboro
- 9/7/22 NCMCA Board of Directors Meeting, tentative – details pending
- 9/22/22 NCMCA Annual Fall Golf Tournament – details pending
- 1/13-1/15/23 Raleigh Chapter Annual Murdell Golf Tournament – Grand Strand
- 4/27-4/30/23 NCMCA Convention, Kingston Plantation – Myrtle Beach
- 5/20/23 Annual Samuel A. McGee Masonry Apprentice Skills Contest, EastWest Products – Kinston

*Additional details and registration forms are always available on the "Calendar" page of NCMCA.com.*



Pictured above, Brett Hardy, EastWest Products, (left) was the winner of the Benelli shotgun raffle that Ryan Shaver conducted on behalf of the NC Masonry Instructors Association SkillsUSA tool prize fund. The drawing at the convention banquet netted about \$2,814.00 for the prize fund. A big thanks to Jodi Helms, Helms Masonry, who sold a ton of chances at the convention!

Joe Griffin of EastWest Products lost his father March 31st. Ron Griffin was retired as Vice President of Sales for Pine Hall Brick Company and had been

**“Contest” continued from Page 1**

A three-way tie at the top was settled with “plumb” scores as the tiebreaker.

Nicholas Sloop, Harrington Masonry, finished “first” in the first-year apprentice division.

New Champion Christian Kluttz lives in Mount Pleasant and is the son of Kima and David Kluttz. His interest outside of work are doing side jobs on the weekend and working out at the gym. Christian says, “Previous national champion Daniel Furr, who was like a second brother to me growing up, is the sole reason I got into masonry in the first place because he made it look so cool. My hope for the future is to run a crew for Huntley Brothers.”

Christian says his favorite quote is from Proverbs 14:23: “All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.”

Kent Huntley of Huntley Brothers Company, himself a previous winner of the contest (1986,) says, “Christian works with Rex Huntley’s crew and does an excellent job for us. In addition to having tremendous ‘passionatism’ for masonry.”

The annual contest is named in memory of Sam McGee. Samuel Alexander McGee (1939-2015) was cofounder and President of McGee Brothers Company in Monroe. Recognized as an innovator in the industry, Sam was inducted into the Masonry Contractors Association of America “Hall-of-Fame” in 2014. He was inducted into the National Masonry Instructors Association “Hall-of-Fame” in 2012 and was among the first individuals to earn the designation “Certified Masonry Executive” in the NCMCA Masonry Contractor Certification Program. He had a passion for the masonry industry and for encouraging and teaching young people craft skills, especially masonry.

The apprentice that finishes with the top score in the contest is presented the “David R. Sigmon Award” as first place finisher of the annual event. The award is named in memory of David Sigmon, a journeyman mason from Hickory who passed away in 1998 while serving as NCMCA president-elect and who had been active in promoting this contest and other programs around the state to recruit and develop young craftsmen for masonry careers.

NCMCA members and friends contribute more than \$20,000 in cash for the expense and prize fund as well donations of brick, block, and mortar, and tools for prizes. Volunteers worked diligently Friday and Saturday executing the event. Member firms provided equipment. NCMCA expresses appreciation for the exemplary support this contest receives each year:

**Host company, facilities, lunch, CMU’s:** Adams, an Oldcastle® company

**Brick:** Pine Hall Brick Company

**Mortar:** Amerimix

**Tool prizes:** iQ Power Tools, EZG Manufacturing, Stabila, EastWest Products, Marshalltown, McGee Brothers Company

**Financial contributions:**

**\$5,000:** McGee Brothers Company

**\$4,000:** Gates Construction Company

**\$2,500:** Carolina Masonry & Concrete

**\$500:** Carolina Masonry Unlimited, EZG Manufacturing, Huntley Brothers Company, Johnson Concrete Company, New South Construction Supply, Pyramid Masonry Contractors, Triangle Brick Company, Tucker-Kirby Company

**\$300:** Custom Brick & Supply Company, Helms Masonry, Inc., Lynn Ladder & Scaffold

**\$250:** Brodie Contractors, Inc., Central Piedmont Chapter, LafargeHolcim, Manning Masonry, Raleigh Chapter, Roanoke

Cement, Triad Chapter, Western Carolina Chapter

**\$200:** Argos USA, Chandler Concrete, Lee Brick & Tile, Palmetto Brick, Pinnacle Masonry, RBD Associates, Summa General Contractors

**\$100:** Fred Mason Masonry, Joyner Masonry Works, Southeastern Concrete Products, Whitman Masonry

**\$50:** Harrington Masonry

**Thank You Volunteers, Contestants, Judges, Supporters and Sponsors!**

The 2023 Samuel A. McGee Memorial Masonry Apprentice Skills Competition is set for Saturday May 20, 2023 in Kinston co-hosted by The NCMCA Eastern Carolina Chapter and EastWest Products.



**NCMCA**  
CERTIFIED  
**Certification Program**  
**News**

The NCMCA certification class schedule for July and August is now set.

The Module 11 “Construction Leadership Boot Camp” certification class with instructor Bob Dusin is now confirmed for Thursday July 28th at the airport Marriott in Greensboro.

The two-day “Masonry Quality Institute” (MQI) required for CME candidates, instructed by Mike Callahan is now confirmed for Tuesday August 30th and Wednesday August 31st also at the Marriott Greensboro. MQI counts as two class credits.

Module 11 is an elective class for both Certified Masonry Professional (CMP) and for Certified Masonry Executive (CME) candidates. This enjoyable workshop is an especially good opportunity for up and coming leaders in your firm to gain leadership and management skills.

Masonry Quality Institute is a required class for Certified Masonry Executive candidates (owners and principles of masonry contracting firms.) It is an elective class for CMP candidates.

Details about class requirements for CME and CMP are included in the document posted at this address:

<https://www.ncmca.com/PDF/GuideToCertificationDec2012.pdf>

Both Module 11 and MQI qualify for required continuing education for previously certified individuals.

Additional information and registration forms will be forthcoming.

At their may 24th virtual meeting, the Certification Program Board of Governors approved the following applications for personal certification: 1) Ryan Shaver, Certified Masonry Professional (CMP), NCMCA Workforce Development & Training Coordinator and NCMCA Executive Vice President designate. 2) Bryan Smith, Certified Masonry Professional (CMP), principle in GE Masonry LLC, Grimesland, NC. 3) Cody Stevens, Certified Masonry Professional (CMP), with Beam Construction Company, Cherryville.

Congratulations to Ryan, Bryan and Cody for this important professional accomplishment.



**Christian Kluttz**  
**Huntley Brothers Company**  
**2022 David R. Sigmon Award**

**The NCMCA Annual Convention and Business Meeting**  
**April 27 to April 30, 2023**  
**Kingston Plantation, Myrtle Beach**



**Golf Winners** Convention Golf Committee Co-Chair Lee Heath (with the sign) congratulates (left to right) the winning team of the 2022 EZG Manufacturing Company NCMCA Convention Golf Tournament Saturday, March 26th in Greenville, SC: Dwayne Bryant, Jimmy Wall, Calvin Brodie, and Doug Burton, Jr. As they have successfully done for many years, Dwayne Bryant and Lee Heath co-chaired the tournament with a “rules” assist from Doug Burton, Sr.



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See more pictures from NCMCA events and activities linked at the NCMCA.com News page

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