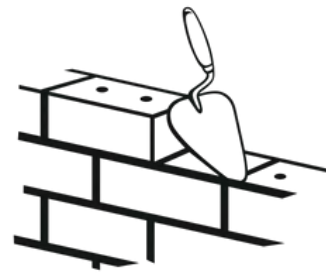


North Carolina Masonry News



June 2025

Vol. 51 No. 2

The Newsletter of the North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association

NCMCA's 51st Convention Recap

The annual NCMCA Convention was held March 27-30 in Asheville, NC at the Grove Park Inn. We had the largest crowd ever with 272 in attendance and over 70 companies represented. Our guest speaker was Jason Brown, and his message was one of faith, sacrifice and inspiration. Congratulations to Judy Johnson with Johnson Concrete Products on receiving the Eleanor F. Upton Award. Pictured below is Judy Johnson (middle) with Johnson Concrete Products/Stalite receiving the Eleanor Upton Outstanding Associate award. Along with Judy is Starling Johnson-Kaklamanos on the left and the Jody Wall on the right. There were a few surprises at the convention too! Everyone received a Cabela's gift card, and we found out who's a smarty and who's a dumb-dumb! The golfers had beautiful weather and a few feathered friends to keep them company. The wives got to enjoy the spa and local businesses. The weather was perfect, and it was a wonderful weekend to help support the Asheville community and our Masonry Association.

In This Issue:

Page 1	Convention
Page 2	Convention
Page 3	Newsletter Sponsor
Page 4	Convention Sponsors
Page 5	Message from the President & Certification Updates
Page 6	Membership Dues Notice & Leadership & Distinguished Members
Page 7	Land of the Sky High School contest & Caldwell County Trades Competition
Page 8	SkillsUSA North Carolina
Page 9	Top Trowel & Line Burner Contest
Page 10	New Members & Jr. Blocklayer Series
Page 11	Jr. Blocklayer
Page 12	Chapter Updates
Page 13	Metrolina Chapter Golf Social
Page 14	Program Highlight
Page 15	Obituaries
Page 16	Dates to Remember



This issue sponsored by:





The following companies received Safety Awards presented by The Alera Group: Vega, Pinnacle Masonry, McGee Brothers, Manning Masonry, Gates Construction Company, Carolina Masonry & Concrete, JB Overman Masonry, Edgar Boettcher Masonry, Brodie Contractors



Every time we play golf at the Grove Park we are entertained by the wildlife. Thankfully this time it was turkeys, instead of bears.



Congratulations to Don Caldwell with C&R Masonry. He was recognized as a Lifetime Member of the NCMCA. Pictured left to right: Don Caldwell & Micah Rogers (Land of the Sky Chapter President).



Congratulations to the Eastern Chapter Fishing Tournament Winners. Pictured Left to right: Jose Martinez, Anthony Vogel, Bryan Overman (Eastern Chapter President), Soccoro Vega, and Frederick Moore.



Winners of the annual golf tournament were Chip Venable, Woody Schmidt, Brandon Roberts and Jeremy Eudy.



Guest speaker Jason Brown with sons.

The #1 Source for Tools, Equipment, Supplies, Safety Products and more.



We put the
“service” back
in Customer
Service.

Our customers will be the first to tell you that they count on our ability to make THEM a priority.



Huge
inventory.
Complete
solutions.

Millions worth of inventory and thousands of square feet of warehouse and showroom space.



We deliver.

Next day. Same day. To your jobsite or any other location. With a fleet of delivery trucks and a top-notch sales team.



COLONY

Tools, Supplies and Safety Products for Contractors

COLONYHARDWARE.COM

a COLONY division

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 NCMCA CONVENTION SPONSORS

Platinum Level Sponsors



ADAMS

Diamond Level Sponsors

General Shale Brick



Gold Level Sponsors



Silver Level Sponsors



Bronze Level Sponsors



SC

Golf Tournament Sponsor



Thursday Evening Hospitality Sponsor



Friday Lunch Sponsor



Saturday Breakfast Sponsor



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.



It's hard to believe we've already made it to June 2025. This year is flying by! There's a saying that "the older you get, the faster time goes," and based on how quickly this year is moving, I must be getting really old. With that being said, we've already had an incredibly active first half of the year on the NCMCA calendar. In March, we held our annual convention at The Grove Park Inn in Asheville, followed by the Skills Competition and Banquet in Greensboro in April, and then the Sam McGee Memorial in Raleigh, hosted by Custom Brick, in May. On top of that, several smaller regional competitions have been held across the state, all of which have contributed to a very busy first half of the year. I want to say thank you to everyone who helped make these events not only possible but successful. From donating time, equipment, and materials, to simply showing up and supporting. It takes all of us working together to make these events come together, and your contributions are truly appreciated. Please continue to check the NCMCA calendar for upcoming events throughout the rest of the year. I also encourage everyone to stay engaged at the local level by attending chapter meetings and lending a hand at sponsored events. If you have ideas for meeting topics or suggestions for guest speakers, don't hesitate to share them with the NCMCA office. Additionally, Ryan and Brandy have the certification series in full swing. If you or anyone on your team needs to complete a class or begin the certification process, now is the perfect time to get involved and sign up. Lastly, thank you to each and every one of you for your continued support of the masonry industry. It's truly an honor to be a small part of such a meaningful and dedicated community. Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable summer season! Cliff McGee

Certification Update & Future Classes



If you are interested in signing up for a class, please contact Brandy Shaver at brandy.shaver@ncmca.com. All classes include lunch and dessert and are held at 73 & Main Restaurant in Mt. Pleasant.

Future classes:

Module 7 – June 18

Masonry Special Inspection

Module 8 – July 23

Masonry Estimating & Bidding Workshop

A stylized signature of Cliff McGee in grey ink, located at the bottom left of the certification update section.

A stylized signature of Brandy Shaver in grey ink, located at the bottom right of the certification update section.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual membership dues notices have gone out by email. If you did not receive your notice or if you are interested in moving up to a Leadership or Distinguished member, please contact Brandy Shaver at brandy.shaver@ncmca.com.

Leadership members pay double dues.

Distinguished members pay double dues and are members of the MCAA.

All dues are payable by July 1st.

Leadership and Distinguished Member Firms as of 6/9/25*

*Alera Group
Brodie Contractors*
Carolina Masonry & Concrete*
Carolina Masonry Unlimited, Inc.*
Cherokee Masonry
Custom Brick & Supply Company
Edgar Boettcher Mason Contractor Inc.
Gates Construction*
General Shale*
Griffin Masonry, Inc.*
Huntley Brothers Company*
JB Overman Masonry*
Jollay Masonry Contractors*
Joyner Masonry Works**

Manning Masonry Inc.
McGee Brothers Company*
Michael J. Rogers Masonry Inc.*
Mountcastle Insurance
Pinnacle Masonry*
Roanoke Cement
Rush Masonry Management*
SPEC Mix*
Stone Creek Masonry Inc.
Taylor Clay Products
Taylor Thompson Masonry Inc.
TNT Equipment Company*
Whitman Masonry**

Land of the Sky High School Contest

The NCMCA, Land of the Sky Chapter based out of Asheville, NC, held its annual high school masonry contest Thursday, April 3.

Congratulations to all the winners and a big thank you to the Land of the Sky Chapter for a great contest!



Caldwell County Trades Competition

On May 8, students from Hibriten High School, South Caldwell High School, and West Caldwell High School competed in the 13th Annual Caldwell Trades Competition. A total of over \$5,000 in cash prizes, tools, and gift cards were awarded to these hardworking students.



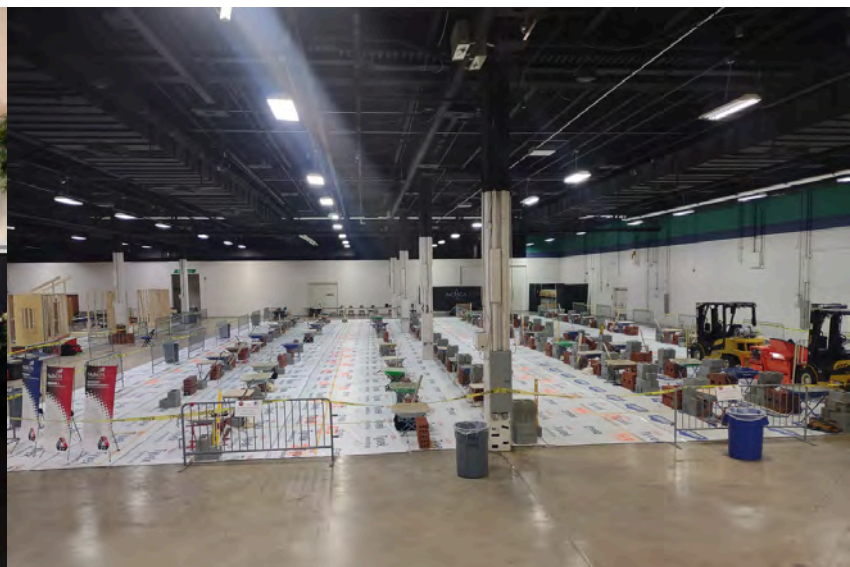
SkillsUSA North Carolina



The North Carolina SkillsUSA Masonry Contest wrapped up another victorious season. This year we had 121 total masonry students compete at the Greensboro Coliseum in late April. This included our Masonry Estimating contest, Masonry Bulletin Board contest, Masonry 1 contest, Secondary Masonry contest, and Post-Secondary contest.

In preparation for the State contest, there were multiple regional contest that enabled the students to practice in a contest setting, as well as getting them ready for the State contest. We have extremely talented masonry instructors that teach the skills needed for their students to be successful, not only in a contest, but more importantly in the real world.

This year's contest winner was Dylan Smith from West Rowan High School. NCMCA would like to thank everyone who helped make this contest possible, from materials, prizes, judging, banquet serving, and cleaning up! There was a great turnout from across the state to encourage the students and show them what the masonry industry has to offer them. We look forward to next year's SkillsUSA contest April 15-17, 2026, in Greensboro. Please mark your calendars and enjoy the excitement of the masonry industry in our youth programs!

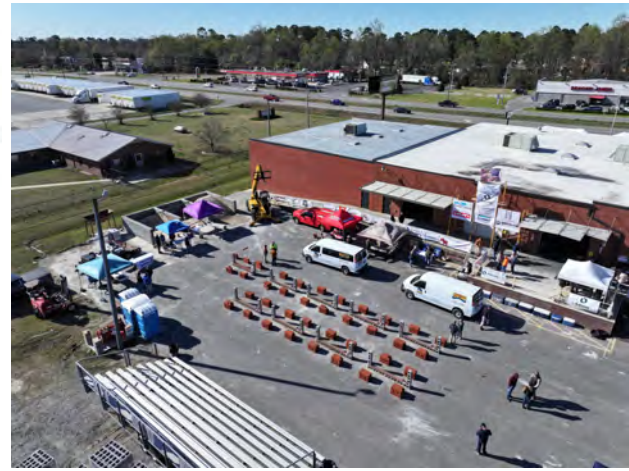


Left to right: 5th Place James Ritchie from South Rowan High School, 3rd Place James Whitley from West Stanly High School, 1st Place Dylan Smith from West Rowan High School, 2nd Place Aaron Vazquez-Sanchez from Jesse Carson High School, and 4th Place Grayson Smith from West Rowan High School.

The calm before the storm.

Top Trowel and Line Burner Contest

Oldcastle hosted its 43rd annual Top Trowel and Line Burner Contest in March in partnership with the Eastern and Raleigh chapters of the N.C. Masonry Contractors Association. More than 70 students from 14 high schools across NC competed in both individual and team contests to win cash prizes totaling more than \$7,500. The contest began with Masonry 1 and Masonry 2 students competing as individuals and as a teams based on the number of contestants from each high school. After a lunch break, a select group of students then competed in the Line Burner contest hosted by the Eastern Chapter. Throughout the day each student was busy increasing their exposure to the masonry industry as they visited a host of vendor booths set up to increase the awareness of all the opportunities available in our field. We thank all those who volunteered and sponsored the event.



Save the Date for our Annual NCMCA State Golf Tournament to be held on Thursday, September 25 at Millcreek Golf Club in Mebane, NC.

Welcome New Members!

Vestige, A2, Charlotte, NC

Maxxon, A4, Kennebunkport, ME

Pride Masonry, LLC, R5, Reidville, SC

3 Promise Labor Services, A4, Waterford, OH

B&L Distributing Company, A4, Columbia, SC

The Masonry Company, Inc, R4, Mocksville, NC

Mammoth Masonry Construction LLC, R1,

Huntersville, NC

The Junior Blocklayer Series

The NCMCA has developed a new Junior Blocklayer series through the CMU Checkoff, The Beauty of Block initiative. We have worked with the CMU Checkoff team to trademark, build a new logo, and a whole series of contests under the Junior Blocklayer theme. Last October the NCMCA had a vision to highlight CMU in a team event for the high school students that attended Masonry Education Day at Ben Ketchie Park. We had eleven teams of three from eleven different high schools compete in the very first Junior Blocklayer team event. This new Junior Blocklayer team contest was very well received and the winning team from Jesse Carson High School laid 36 total CMU in under 14 minutes with the least amount of deductions to win the inaugural Junior Blocklayer Team Contest. We look forward to expanding the offering of the Junior Blocklayer series at the 2025 Masonry Education Day on October 2 at Ben Ketchie Park, as well at any other masonry events statewide.



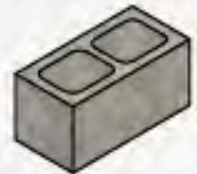
CALLING ALL FUTURE BLOCK LAYERS

THE 2025 CMC JUNIOR BLOCK LAYER COMPETITION

Laying the building blocks of the future starts right here, right now, with the CMC Junior Block Layer Competition — a challenge that builds skills, confidence and careers. With four levels to choose from, the competition is open to students of all ages as well as masonry apprentices. Here's an overview of each competition level and what participants can expect.

BEGINNINER LEVEL

It's not just an introduction to the Concrete Masonry Industry. It's a fun block-laying contest that requires very little skill but inspires young people to learn the trade. The beginner level will give them a sense of accomplishment in laying block while building a desire to move forward in a lucrative and fulfilling career. It will be a timed contest with four 8" Concrete Masonry Units (CMU) laid and judged on industry standards for workmanship. This level is designed for first-time participants and would be well-suited to career days, industry events, plant tours and the like.



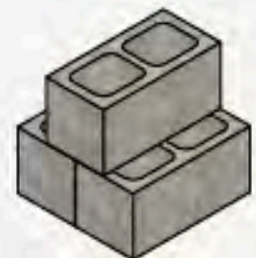
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

Designed for those that have had some instruction on proper laying techniques for CMU, the intermediate level will help students take the next step on their journey into the masonry trade. This level will also be offered to first-year students in masonry training programs, allowing them to showcase the skills they learned in their first year. Like the beginner level, this will be a timed contest with sixteen 8" CMU laid and judged on industry standards for workmanship. The intermediate contest is designed for participants that started masonry training within the prior year.



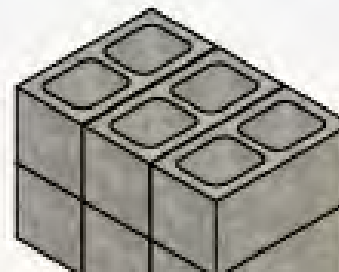
ADVANCED LEVEL

Designed for students that have started their second year of masonry training and those who may have completed the intermediate level, the advanced level of the Junior Block Layer program will be a timed contest with 30 CMU laid and judged on industry standards for workmanship. Also available to those in the apprentice program, this level is ideal for masonry pathway completers, working apprentices, and second-year masonry students.



TEAM LEVEL

Open to students at any stage of the Junior Block Layer program, this level is a team-based contest in which groups of three students collaborate to construct a CMU wall. Participants may perform any necessary tasks, including laying block, tending, jointing, etc. Meant to reflect a real-world jobsite, the team level event will be a timed contest with 30 six 8" CMU laid and judged on industry standards for workmanship.



Coming October 2, 2025, at Masonry Education Day
Ben Ketchie Park,
Gold Hill, NC



NCMCA Chapter News

Metrolina Chapter News

The Metrolina Chapter held its last meeting on April 23rd at VGB's. We are planning our 1st Annual Metrolina Golf Tournament for July 25th. All Chapters are invited! More details to come soon. With vacation season in full swing, we have rescheduled our May and June meetings to Thursday, August 28th. We're also planning our Metrolina Golf Tournament for some time in October (date TBD). And of course, we're looking forward to Recognition Night on Thursday, November 13.

Western Chapter News

The Western Chapter had the Caldwell County Masonry contest last month. Several of our members showed up to support it. Thanks to everyone who came out. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, June 10th at Dos Amigos in Conover, located at 1222 Conover Blvd West. Social is at 6:00pm and 7:00pm meeting. We hope to see you there!

Raleigh Chapter News

The Raleigh Chapter held a meeting on Tuesday May 6th at Cantina 18 in Raleigh. Kristie Sauls, Program Director with NC Career Launch, gave a presentation on how their program aims to connect students with employers in various trades and careers. This can be another opportunity to connect students with the masonry industry.

Member News (aka Burton news this month):

- John Burton married Caroline Cooper (now Burton) on May 3rd
- Doug Burton, Jr. and his wife Michelle welcomed their first child, a daughter, JoAnn "Josie" Elizabeth Burton on May 9th
- Jake Burton and his wife Hannah Grace welcomed their second son, Hatcher George Burton on May 13th

The Raleigh Chapter will be hosting a social event at Sports Social at Fenton in Cary on Monday June 16th from 5:30-7pm (301 Fenton Gateway Drive, Cary, NC 27511).

Central Piedmont Chapter News

The Central Piedmont chapter will be hosting our golf tournament on June 12th at Stoney Creek Golf Club. So far, we are looking like a great turnout but still have some sponsorships and teams left to fill.

Some of the best news! Justin Hahn with Hahn Construction and his wife, Abby, brought home their beautiful little girl this month. She was 6 lbs. 1oz when they brought her home, and her name is Caroline Maye Hahn. At our next meeting, we are looking to host a social full of fun and fellowship at Topgolf in Greensboro on August 11th. This will hopefully be a great opportunity for us to get some of the members of our chapter to show up (who typically do not come), and see the changes we have made and the growth we have had in attendance. I expect a great turnout!

Lastly, we are looking at having another meeting at the Logan's Steakhouse in Greensboro sometime in September (tentatively). At this meeting, we will have Brian Miller with USI Insurance come and be a presenter. Brian is a very seasoned rep with USI, and already helps several masons in our industry with insurance needs. He is hoping to help educate and answer any questions when it comes to insurance, especially in our great industry!

METROLINA CHAPTER

GOOLF

Social



\$150
PER PLAYER
\$900
PER TEAM (6)

FRIDAY
JULY 25TH

11 AM - 2 PM

COMAPNY *VS* COMAPNY
VENDOR *VS* VENDOR
FIRM *VS* FIRM

OPEN TO ALL CHAPTERS



TOPGOLF

8024 Savoy Corporate Dr.
Charlotte, NC 28273

BUFFET

lunch INLCUDED



CONTACT: MIKE@CAROLINAMASONRY.COM
MICHAEL.TEAGUE@OLDCASTLE.COM

NCMCA "Program Highlight"

The NCMCA has been highlighting masonry programs across the state in each newsletter. We are excited to showcase Mr. Eric Sollie and his program at Tuscola High School in Waynesville, NC.

Tuscola High School Masonry Program with Eric Sollie

My program is focused on getting these students real-world, hands-on experience in the basics of the masonry trade. I am blessed to have leadership who are very supportive of CTE programs and allow us to go off campus to work on projects around our community. Students get the basics in the classroom instruction, practice the skills in the shop, and then head out and put the skills to the test completing live projects. We spend the majority of our semester out in the field on various projects, some of the more noteworthy in the past include working for the town of Waynesville laying brick pavers, building entrance signs for schools, whole house foundations for Habitat for Humanity, an outdoor worship area for Grace Episcopal Church, and many many more. For the next school year, we have been asked to help construct a Hurricane Helene Memorial at the Waynesville Fire Department. The students will play a key role in the design, layout, and masonry parts of the project including columns and a paver walkway. We are excited to partner with our town on this project. The best part of teaching these students is watching them go from not being able to read a tape measure, to taking an active role in building a project. It is a very rewarding job where I get to see students engaged in something they know will allow them to have skills valued in the industry right after graduation. We do spend time in the classroom where students learn the "how's" and most importantly the "why's" of this trade. Each year we also participate in the Land of the Sky Masonry competition, and have had some good success with the students placing in the top five fairly often. Tuscola Masonry is a place the the students know they can come to "do school" a little different, learning through hands on experience. We work hard, learn, and have a little fun as well. Thanks for your support. Eric Sollie, Instructor



In Loving Memory

Jane Elizabeth Kaylor Sigmon, 77, passed away Monday, February 24, 2025, at Catawba Valley Medical Center. Born March 20, 1947, in Hickory, she was the daughter of the late Clarence L. (Slim) Kaylor and Kathryn Cash Kaylor.

She graduated from Hickory High School, attended Methodist College in Fayetteville, NC, then returned to Hickory to finish her education at Lenoir Rhyne and marry the love of her life, David R. Sigmon, who died in 1998. They had a daughter and son. Until their children were grown Jane was a stay-at-home mother. For a number of years, she was a substitute teacher at St. Stephens High School. Her life was faith, family and friends. She was a member of Highland Baptist Church and the Win-One Sunday School Class. Jane enjoyed working with the Soup Kitchen at Sandy Ridge Baptist Church. She loved family history and enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren.



In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, David R. Sigmon, sister, Luanne K. Hays and daughter-in-law, Jenny F. Sigmon. She is survived by her daughter, Deidra S. Foster; son, Drew D. Sigmon (Kim); brother, Mike Kaylor (Jennifer); grandsons: Hank, Nolan, Gehrig, and Calvin Foster, Tate Sigmon; and granddaughter, Addy S. Tirado (Alex); and a number of nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws, and many special friends.



Margaret Douglas Bralley Burton, age 93, passed away peacefully on March 20, 2025. Margaret was born in Lynch Station, VA on April 13, 1931, to Stephen Prater and Margaret Douglas Bralley. She was raised in Richmond, VA and returned to Altavista in 1956 after marrying James E. "Ed" Burton, III. She moved to Westminster Canterbury Lynchburg in 2010 following the death of Ed. They were married for 51 years.

Margaret was very active in her community having served two terms on the Altavista Town Council, she served on the local Red Cross board and organized the blood mobile in town for many years, directed numerous children's church choirs, wrote the church bulletin for Lane Memorial United Methodist Church, played the piano for men's bible class, and sometimes played the organ for church. After moving to Westminster Canterbury in Lynchburg she played piano for chapel service.



Affectionately known as "Mark" by her grandchildren, she loved to read, knit, needlepoint and cook. She made needlepoint Christmas stockings for grandchildren; knitted sweaters and golf club headcovers; and loved making her famous biscuits and cheese spreads for family members.

She is predeceased by her parents, husband and three siblings. She is survived by her four children, Jeb (Betsy), Doug (Holly), Stephanie Patterson (Robbie) and Danks (Joanne); twelve grandchildren, Jeb V (Annie), Grace (Jack), Buck B. (Sarah), Doug Jr. (Michelle), John (Caroline), Kaki, Louis (Emma), Jake (Hannah Grace), Julia (Matt), Buck P., Rett, and Drew; six great grandchildren, Jamie, Willie, Hunt, Danks, Libby, and Emmy.



Brian P. Carney, 58, of Lakeville, Minnesota, left this world peacefully surrounded by family and friends on March 14th, 2025. Through God's Grace, Brian leaves a legacy for all of us who knew him to follow and to share: Courageousness, tenacity, warriorship, and positivity in the face of many obstacles.

Brian was born May 24, 1966. He grew up in Rochester, MN. A graduate from Winona State, he began a lifetime career in the masonry industry. While in awe of what the trade offered, it was the people of the industry, the people of the day to day life, the people he encountered that folded his passion into his 34+ career with Spec Mix Inc, a Quikrete Company. At the time of death, he led the Spec Mix Inc team as Vice President. Brian married Shelly on June 17th, 2000, and together they shared a beautiful love story. They were married for almost 25 years yet their partnership in love began 30 years ago. A joy filled commitment and wonderful life together forged in loyalty, respect and dedication to one another regardless of all.

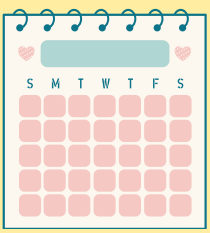


Not many can say this, but Brian absolutely loved what he did for a living. He loved the people of the industry, those he worked with, and the opportunities available. His introduction to the masonry industry began working as a mason's tender for a life-time friend Trent Keller of Keller Masonry while going to school. He was blessed with pioneering many "firsts" in the masonry industry. After college, he was hired by a life-time friend Terry Fenelon. With Spec Mix, his initial sales and marketing opportunity was introducing a brand new on the job concept to the masonry world. Brian and his team accomplished the enormous task and to date, Spec Mix pre-blended masonry products and the Silo Delivery System are seen on almost every masonry job site.

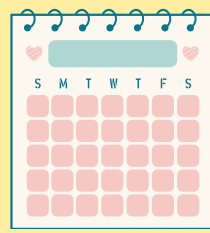
In 2003, Brian started the World's Largest Bricklaying Competition, the Spec Mix Bricklayer 500. The SMBL500 is a masonry competition to showcase the skills and pride of bricklayers worldwide. An event held annually at the World of Concrete Show in Las Vegas, now televised, this unique competition is recognized as a leading resource for the masonry industry.

In 2020, Brian was inducted into the Masonry Hall of Fame. The Masonry Contractors Association of America (MCAA) recognized Brian's many contributions to the industry.

He was preceded in death by his loving parents, Edward and Karen Carney. He is survived by his wife Shelly, his three sisters Colleen McCall (Fred), Carrie Ellis (Jeff), Michelle Crowson, as well as many cherished nieces, nephews, friends and family members. He is a man that will be missed by so many.



Dates to Remember



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

June 12, 2025 - Central Piedmont Golf Tournament

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

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

July 1 - All Membership Fees Due

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

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

July 25, 2025 - Metrolina Chapter Topgolf Social

September 7-11, 2025 - MCAA's Mid-Year, Mackinac Island, MI

**September 25, 2025 - NCMCA Annual Golf Tournament,
Mill Creek Golf Club, Mebane, NC**

**October 2, 2025 - 9th Annual Masonry Education Day
and SPECMIX Bricklayer 500 Qualifier**

October 20, 2025 - 71st Annual Apprentice State Fair Contest

**October 30, 2025 - Annual In-Person Board Meeting
Triangle Brick, Durham, NC**

**November 13, 2025 - Metrolina Chapter Recognition Night
The Farmstead, Mt. Pleasant, NC**

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

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

