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NCMCA'S 50th Year Convention Was a Smashing Success!!

The NCMCA annual convention was a huge success at The Williamsburg Lodge in Colonial Williamsburg, VA. We had over 225 people in attendance with 67 member companies represented. This was our first time in Colonial Williamsburg, but definitely not our last! The line-up of events this year featured a Masonry Showcase with twelve companies represented. Saturday morning's membership board meeting was very informative and lots of new things were agreed and voted on. We also discussed a lot of our current programs such as certification, foreman in the field, and apprenticeship.

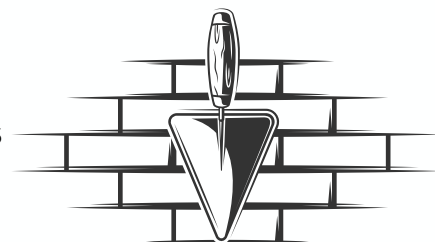


John Sanderson , Dwayne Bryant and Andy Rogers of Palmetto Brick.

The convention ended Saturday evening with the closing dinner that was set up to remember the past. In honor of the 50 year history a very special slide show was showcased to shine a light on the history of the NCMCA. Congratulations to Dwayne Bryant, of Palmetto Brick Company, on receiving the Eleanor F. Upton Award! Dwayne was recognized at the convention banquet. The Eleanor F. Upton Award recognizes associate member individuals for exceptional dedication to the masonry industry and the association, and it is not given every year (only 12 times over the last 50 years). We are thrilled to honor Dwayne among this prestigious group! Thank you Dwayne for your commitment and leadership to our industry!

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The annual golf tournament at the convention was a huge hit with the team of Brandon Roberts, William Roberts, Mike Doane, and Chet Huntley winning the tournament.



Scott Tucker with Brooks Equipment presented Brandon Roberts with Adams an Oldcastle Company the Kubota RTV that Brandon won at the NCMCA convention raffle. Congratulations Brandon and enjoy your new ride!



Meet your 2024-2026 Leadership of the North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association
Left to right: Secretary/Treasurer Mike Rogers of Michael J. Rogers Masonry; President Elect Tim Manning of Manning Masonry; President Cliff McGee of McGee Brothers, Chairman of the Board Bo Black of Carolina Masonry Unlimited.



Congratulations to the Eastern Chapter Fishing Tournament Winners: Soccoro Vega, Carlos Vega and Eastern Chapter President Bryan Overman!



The following companies received Safety Awards presented by TriSure Corporation: McGee Brothers Co. Inc., Carolina Masonry and Concrete, Edgar Boettcher Masonry, Gates Construction Company, Inc., J.B. Overman Masonry, Joyner Masonry, Brodie Contractors, Southeastern Contracting, and Pinnacle Masonry.



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TUCKER-KIRBY CO.



IQ POWER TOOLS/BARTELL GLOBAL



MARSHALLTOWN



WHITE CAP CONSTRUCTION COMPANY



In the books...

- 2024 NCMCA Convention in Williamsburg - The 50th year of the NCMCA was a huge success! Williamsburg was a great destination with its masonry history. It was well attended, and we are looking forward to the Grove Park Inn in March 27-30, 2025!
- 2024 SkillsUSA Masonry Contest in Greensboro - We have officially gotten back to pre-covid participation! We had a total of 121 masonry students competing the contest.
- Sam McGee Memorial Contest in Waynesville - We had great participation at an awesome venue. Thank you to everyone who came out to help put on such an incredible event!

In the process...

- Local Chapter Meetings - I have been able to attend the Central Piedmont and Metrolina chapter meetings this year. We have had great attendance and informative programs. I would encourage you to try and attend your local chapter meetings as they can be used as a very good training tool.
- Office Manager (OM) - The search for our new Office Manager is in process and we will keep you posted as we progress.

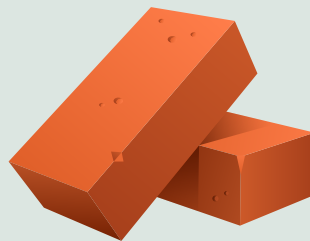
In the future...

- Masonry Promotion and Outreach Coordinator (MPOC) - As mentioned at the NCMCA Convention, we are looking to add a new member to our staff to help with workforce development and promoting masonry. The personnel committee will be starting the process of hiring of the MPOC in the coming months.
- SkillsUSA - SkillsUSA is coming up in Atlanta in on June 26-28. Good luck to our North Carolina representative, Mason Ridenhour from East Rowan High School!

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 Saturday April 22. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you Land of Sky Chapter for a great contest!

Masonry 1: 1st place Walker Bolden (Tuscola), 2nd place Creed Massie (Tuscola), 3rd place Caleb Shires (Chase). Masonry 2: 1st place Tanner Carver (Tuscola), 2nd place Zach Frazier (Chase), 3rd place William Nolan (McDowell).



Masonry 2: First place winner Tanner Carver (right) from Tuscola High School with his instructor Eric Sollie (left).

Mike Rogers (right) NCMCA Secretary/Treasurer presented Don Caldwell (left) with C&R Masonry with a plaque for twelve years of service as the Western Region VP for NCMCA.

**Save the Date for our Annual
NCMCA State Golf Tournament
Thursday, September 26 at
Millcreek Golf Club in Mebane,
NC.**



Member News



Whitman Masonry's Doug Burton Jr. and Michelle Jereb were married Friday, May 24. Congratulations Doug and Michelle.

Hutch Manning, son of Dawn and Tim Manning of Manning Masonry, graduated recently from NC State University. Hutch has accepted a job as Project Engineer with TA Loving Co.



The Rogers Family, of Michael J. Rogers Masonry, is rapidly growing. Christian and Molly Rogers welcomed their firstborn- Hadley Blake Rogers- into the world May 21, 2024 weighing in at 8 lbs 2 oz. Momma and baby are doing very well. Praise the Lord!



Isaac and Anna Rogers have publicly announced they're expecting their first child in Nov. '24. They are super excited!

New Members:
Hahn Construction
Wallburg, NC



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MEMBERSHIP

DUES

Starting this year all membership dues will be payable on July 1st. Last year's dues were pro-rated to get everyone current until June 30th. Invoices have been mailed. A current list of Leadership and Distinguished* Member Firms are listed below. If you would like to join this esteemed list, please reach out to Ryan Shaver at 704-791-5240.

- Alera Group/TriSure Corporation**
- Brodie Contractors***
- Carolina Masonry Unlimited, Inc.***
- Cherokee Masonry***
- Edgar Boettcher Mason Contractor Inc.***
- Gates Construction***
- Huntley Brothers Company***
- JB Overman Masonry***
- Jollay Masonry Contractors***
- Joyner Masonry Works***
- Kirby Construction Services**
- Manning Masonry***
- McGee Brothers Company***
- Mountcastle Insurance**
- Pinnacle Masonry***
- Roanoke Cement**
- Rush Masonry Management***
- SPEC Mix***
- TNT Equipment Company***
- Whitman Masonry***



The North Carolina SkillsUSA Masonry Contest was a huge success! A total of 121 masonry students competed at the Greensboro Coliseum in late April. This year’s contest featured a field of contestants that were very strong. Leading up to the State contest, there were multiple regional contests that enabled the students to practice in a contest setting as well as getting them ready for the State contest. Our masonry instructors are very good at teaching the skills needed for their students to be successful not only in a contest, but more importantly in the real world when they graduate and enter the field.

This year’s contest winner, Mason Ridenhour was from East Rowan High School.

A special thank you to everyone that helped make this contest possible, from materials, prizes, judging and clean up! We had 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 8-10, 2025 in Greensboro. Please mark your calendars and enjoy the excitement of the masonry industry in our youth programs!



Left to right: 4th Place Colby Kirkland from West Stanly High School, 2nd Place Corbin Nations from West Rown High School, 1st Place Mason Ridenhour from East Rowan High School, 3rd Place Aaron Vazquez Sanchez from Jesse Carson High School, and 5th Place Mark Truman from West Rowan High School.



Certification Classes

Series 11 of the NCMCA’s Certification classes are being held at 73 & Main in Mt. Pleasant. Attendance has averaged around 80 participants. If you are interested in attending, please let us know.



June 19 - Module 6
 July 25 - Module 7
 August 21 - Module 8



SAM MCGEE MEMORIAL CONTEST

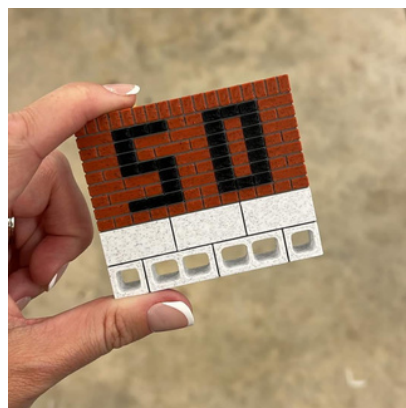
NCMCA's best apprentice masons competed in Waynesville, NC on Saturday, May 18th in the NCMCA's Annual Samuel A. McGee Memorial Apprentice Masonry Skills Contest. The contest champion will represent North Carolina in the Annual MCAA Las Vegas International Apprentice Skills Contest at the World of Concrete in Las Vegas, January 2025.



A huge THANK YOU to all the contestants who participated in the 2024 Samuel McGee Memorial Apprentice Masonry Skills Contest and to our hosting sponsor Adams an Oldcastle Company.



Congratulations to our 1st Place Winner of the First Year Contest for the 2024 Samuel McGee Memorial Apprentice Masonry Skills Contest, Ramiro Cruz Arvizu of Manning Masonry. Pictured with NCMCA Board Member Mike Rogers and Land of the Sky Chapter President Micah Rogers.



Congratulations to our 1st Place Winner of the 2024 Samuel McGee Memorial Contest, Alec Huntley of Huntley Brothers Company Inc. Alec is the son of Ed & Lina Huntley.



DATES TO REMEMBER!

**June 19 - Certification Class/Module 6, 73 & Main,
Mt. Pleasant, NC**

June 20 - Central Piedmont Chapter Golf Tournament

June 25-28 - SkillUSA Nationals Masonry Contest, Atlanta, GA

June 26-29 - SCMA Convention

July 1 - All Membership Fees Due

**July 15 - CTE Masonry Instructors Summer Conference,
Greensboro, NC**

**July 24 - Certification Class/Module 7, 73 & Main,
Mt. Pleasant, NC**

**August 21 - Certification Class/Module 8, 73 & Main,
Mt. Pleasant, NC**

August 25-29 - MCAA's Mid-Year, Park City, UT

September 26 - NCMCA Annual Golf Tournament

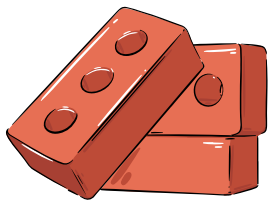
**October 3 - 8th Annual Masonry Education Day/SPECMIX
Bricklayer 500 Qualifier**

October 21 - 70th Annual Apprentice State Fair Contest

October 31 - Annual In-Person Board Meeting

January 17-19, 2025 - Murdell Golf





Chapter News



Land of the Sky Chapter News

The Land of the Sky has its monthly meetings lined up for the next few months with Prosoco, EZ Scaffold, Wire Bond, Hilti, Malta Dynamics, and finalizing some details with Stabila. I plan to continue reaching out to other vendors and suppliers of the association for future meetings so if I haven't contacted you yet, I will be! We had the Sam McGee memorial contest this past weekend which brought a great crowd with a bunch of skilled apprentices that laid good projects! A.C Reynolds recently hired Robbie Davis, a past member of the association as its masonry teacher for their new program starting this next semester! with this being a startup program, I'm sure Robbie would appreciate any help he could receive from vendors/suppliers throughout. Feel free to reach out to myself or Robbie if your able to contribute. Big thanks to Ryan and Mike R. for working with the school system to get this program back and going! Hope everyone has a great and busy summer.

Not to jinx anyone, but I reminded our guys this week and would encourage others to do as well, that we are in a higher risk for jobsite accidents as we enter this summer season. Job sites get busier, we lose focus thinking and planning for vacation, coming back from vacation, etc. Stay safe!

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Metrolina Chapter News

Presentation on "Building Envelope Performance"

Thursday, May 23rd, we had a special presentation by Mark Ohlmann, Associate Vice President of Consulting at M.I.S (A Salas O'Brien Company). Mark highlighted critical aspects of maintaining building envelope integrity, focusing on preventing moisture and water intrusion. This presentation, titled "Building Envelope Performance," covered essential knowledge on building envelope inspection and quality control, which is vital for our field.

2024 Samuel A. McGee Memorial Masonry Skills Contest Winners

Congratulations to all participants in this year's Masonry Skills Contest.

Special recognition goes to the top performers:

First place Alec Huntley - Huntley Brothers Company Inc., Second place Cade Huntley - Huntley Brothers Company Inc., Third place Everado Gonzales - Brodie Contractors, Fourth place Annayeli Dionisio - Fred Mason's Masonry, Fifth place O'Connor Leonard - Gates Construction.
First Year Contestant First place Ramiro Cruz Arvizu - Manning Masonry, Second place Nate Ariel - Ariel Masonry, Third place Kalyn Stover - Fred Mason's Masonry, Fourth place Jacob Helms - McGee Brothers, Fifth place Jake Gazaway - Michael J Rogers Masonry, and Sixth place Caleb Presley - Wemco Contracting.

Raleigh Chapter News

The Raleigh Chapter held their meeting on May 6th at Cantina 18 in Raleigh. Sean Loftis with InServ Corporation gave a safety presentation on Self Retractable Lifelines. It was valuable information and well received by all who attended. Speical thanks to our social sponsors: Brandco, Johnson Concrete and Custom Brick.

Our next meeting will be a social event on June 3rd at a local watering hole. Location to be determined. We are not meeting during the month of July and will pick back up on August 5th.

Chapter member Dough Burton Jr., of Whitman Masonry, married Michelle Jereb on May 25th and is offically off the market! Congratulations Doug!!!!

**NORTH
CAROLINA**



LAY IT ALL ON THE LINE!

OCTOBER 3RD, AT 10:45 AM

BEN KETCHIE PARK, 16745 OLD BEATTY FORD RD, GOLD HILL, NC

CONTACT PATRICK O'TOOLE AT 216-513-9502

SEE THE **SKILL, SPEED, & STAMINA, OF THE BEST!**



REGISTRATION OPENS SOON Journeymen Masons, win your Regional Series event, and you're on the "ROAD TO LAS VEGAS" to compete in the 23rd Annual SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® World Championship, for a shot at \$125,000 in cash & prizes including a Kubota RTV-X1130 UTV and a Essik Pro12 mixer!

COME CHECK IT OUT! The SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 Regional Series competitions are the masonry industry's most exciting, celebrated event highlighting the passion and pride that define the makings of a great mason: **SKILL, SPEED, and STAMINA!** Recognized as the "Super Bowl of Masonry," the thrill and energy of these intense competitions is what drives masons to win a spot on the roster of the 2025 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 World Championship contest in Las Vegas at the World of Concrete show!

MASONRY EDUCATION DAY

8:00 AM - LEARN FROM THE PROS! During Masonry Education Day students and apprentices will visit "Learning Sessions" set up by product producers and suppliers to experience live demonstrations on the masonry industry's most innovative equipment and tools used on jobsites.



10:00 AM - THE NORTH CAROLINA JR. BRICKLAYER 500® IS BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF MASONRY CRAFTSMEN & WOMEN! The SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® is no longer all about seasoned vets. Now high school and apprentice students can get in on the action and test their skills against their peers. The competitors are challenged by a 20-minute clock and a 9'- 4" starter wall to showcase their workmanship and determination to compete for cash and prizes while proving they'll soon be ready to claim the title of "World's Best Bricklayer."

REGISTRATION OPENS SOON!

SPONSORS OF THE SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500®



NCMCA Golden Anniversary Celebration Series - March

We're starting off the North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association Golden 50th Anniversary Year by highlighting some monumental events that have taken place throughout the existence of NCMCA. Each month throughout 2024 we will have articles that will showcase the history and folks that helped NCMCA get to where it is today. Please enjoy this yearlong series with our third article, "The Hired Help".

It's a major challenge for most organizations to move beyond fully volunteer management and step up to retaining dedicated "paid" management and administration. Most organizations find they are limited in growth, function and opportunity if they rely solely on volunteers to function. Many of our sister masonry contractor and masonry promotional groups continue to struggle with making the leap to paid management. Funding and finding the right candidate or management firm are major hurdles.

NCMCA was officially incorporated with the North Carolina Secretary of State in 1974, the anniversary we are celebrating this year. Even before the incorporation, a dedicated group of volunteers were devoting extraordinary time and resources to making a masonry contractors association a reality for North Carolina. Soon after incorporation, the leadership of the new organization began to realize the limitations of depending solely on volunteers.

Unfortunately, the details are sketchy but in the mid-seventies, the young NCMCA made the move away from volunteer administration. Here is the history of the Association's executives.

Eleanor F. Upton/Upton Associates – 1976 to 1997 President Robert "Bob" Merrill's administration contracted with Upton Associates of Raleigh for management services in 1976. Mrs. Upton would serve as NCMCA Executive Secretary until the fall of 1997, assisted by her husband Bob, who specialized in newsletters, other publications, and office computer technology. Upton Associates' staff handled bookkeeping, billing and membership management.

Eleanor and Bob Upton formed Upton Associates, a meeting and association management firm, in 1976. Utilizing her contacts and extensive experience in the hospitality industry, she arranged spectacular events and conventions for NCMCA and the now-defunct Southeast Masonry Association at great resort venues across the Carolinas. (Upton Associates also did minor management tasks for the Southeast Masonry Association, a group that many masonry companies from the Carolinas, Virginia and the southeast participated in before the Mason Contractors Association of America in the late nineties began to embrace the "open shop" companies that prevailed in the southeast.) Eleanor's Rolodex held the contact information for every hotel, resort, convention center, visitor's bureau, bus company, and talent agency on the east coast. She was on a "first name" basis with all of them.

With their broad experience managing multiple trade and professional groups and their many contacts in state government and politics, Bob and Eleanor were a valued resource for guiding NCMCA in its growth and influence.

Past President Bob Merrill once said, "It was a big change in the association when we hired Eleanor. It was an important move for us. NCMCA wouldn't have still existed if we hadn't hired her. It would have folded."

At the February 1998 Annual Convention, which was held in conjunction with the national Masonry Expo/Mason Contractors Association of America Convention in downtown Charlotte, Mrs. Upton was recognized for her years of dedicated service to the Association as she stepped away from managing NCMCA. President Doug Burton presented her with a commemorative Waterford Crystal bowl and announced her to be the recipient of the 1998 NCMCA "Outstanding Associate's Award," which from that time on, would be renamed and known as the "Eleanor F. Upton Award." In her honor, with the assistance of John Cramer and Doug Burton, master stonemason William "Smitty" Smith restored the historic stone fireplace and mantel in the sacristy of the Upton's church, Christ Episcopal Church in Raleigh. John Cramer says, "The fireplace was originally built in the church in 1848, pre-civil war, and to this day carries a plaque commemorating Eleanor."

Quoted in the August 1997 NCMCA newsletter, Burton said of Eleanor, "Masonry contractors in North Carolina owe her more than we can ever repay. She has made it possible for the association to become a real force in the building industry and the community of this state. We are now recognized as one of the strongest masonry contractor associations in the nation."

Eleanor Upton died in June 2017 following husband Bob's passing in April 2016. Their daughter Barbara Geiger continues to run the firm. Over the years, Upton Associates has continued to assist NCMCA in arranging favorable convention contracts and venues.



NCMCA's first Executive Secretary Eleanor Upton with then-President Robert "Bob" Merrill. Mrs. Upton's firm, Upton Associates, was retained to manage NCMCA in 1976 when Mr. Merrill was president.



At the 1998 NCMCA Convention in Charlotte, then-President Doug Burton along with past association presidents in attendance, recognized Eleanor Upton for her years of service to NCMCA and announced that henceforth, the "Outstanding Associates Award" would be renamed the "Eleanor F. Upton Award" in her honor.

Lynn Nash – 1997 to 2023 By the mid-nineties, NCMCA leadership began to realize that while Upton Associates’ services had served the Association well, future growth and expansion of NCMCA projects and programs would require fulltime management and at least one fulltime employee. Under the leadership of then President Doug Burton, a plan was developed to fund the new executive office with pledges from individual member firms and local chapters. Chapters each committed to a \$2,000 annual pledge for five years, which several greatly exceeded. (The chapter pledge commitment remains active today with chapter contributions exceeding well over a half-million dollars.) In addition, thirty-one member firms also committed to a five-year pledge that exceeded \$215,000 in contributions to support a fulltime office.

A search committee was formed consisting of Doug Burton, Alan Griffin, Gary Joyner, David Sigmon, and Freddy Koontz, and a job description was developed. Résumé solicitation and interviews got underway in 1997. After interviewing several qualified candidates, Lynn Nash of Hickory was hired as NCMCA Executive Vice President to become the Association’s first fulltime managing director beginning September 15, 1997.

A Virginian, Nash grew up in a masonry family and worked in the concrete and masonry materials industry beginning in the mid-seventies. He also had background in media and broadcasting from previous employment and experience. Nash had been an associate member of NCMCA’s Western Carolina Chapter beginning with his transfer to Hickory from Roanoke in 1979.

Nash likes to relate the story about how excited he was on that August 12th when he accepted the NCMCA position, only to wake up that same night in a panic facing the reality “that NCMCA didn’t have enough money to pay me for three months.” Now he says, “Twenty-six years later, we know the rest of the story. Happy ending.”

Upon Nash’s May 2023 retirement, Past President Doug Burton, reflecting in the NCMCA quarterly newsletter, wrote, “Lynn has pushed, prodded, persevered and ultimately survived fourteen presidents during his tenure. Half of those beat him to retirement. We hired him with \$35,000 in the bank; he leaves us with \$1,200,000. Lynn was instrumental in getting our certification program started, which is now in its (17th) year and is the envy of the nation. He saw the need and was very involved in pushing us towards hiring a workforce development person and was part of the process to find, hire and train Ryan (Shaver.) (Nash) was apolitical, staying above and out of the fray that industry associations experience and kept it at bay. He was a strong proponent and voice for masonry and contractors. He ran a tight ship. His conventions were well done, enlightening and enjoyed by all. He advanced our association and our industry and represented us well at the national level. Lynn retired after our 2023 convention and has left us in great shape with strong programs in place and a firm direction for the future.”

Nash and wife Katie are enjoying retirement in Hickory. He’s still a regular at Western Carolina Chapter meetings.

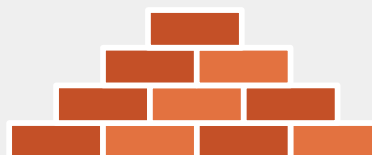
Ryan Shaver – 2018 to Present Until about 1999, the lion’s share of masonry workforce recruitment in the Carolinas had been by the block and brick manufacturing industry, especially the brick manufacturers. With people like the late Jack Glass working the state, the North Carolina Brick Association (later to become the Carolinas Brick Association) maintained staff positions dedicated to masonry workforce development, especially in high schools. Nash recalls that in 1997 when he joined NCMCA, North Carolina had about 120 high school masonry vocational classes in place, most as a result of the Carolinas Brick Association and the early efforts of folks like Jack Glass.

With industry changes, especially ownership consolidation, those dedicated brick association workforce development positions disappeared by the late nineties. By the early two thousands, the lack of the brick industry’s traditional shepherding of school masonry programs was becoming apparent. While the need to restore systematic (versus what had become hit-or-miss) oversight of school programs was recognized, no serious industry effort was made to develop and fill a position dedicated to masonry workforce development until about 2017.

In 2017, the possibility arose to bring on an individual who was extraordinarily and uniquely qualified to address workforce development at all levels. Ryan Shaver of Mount Pleasant, North Carolina was an award winning masonry student himself, having won the North Carolina State Fair Masonry Apprentice Contest in 1992 and the National VICA Masonry Championship in 1993, and was a successful journeyman mason at a very young age. He had experience in running masonry crews and later, owned and managed his own company and acquired his general contractor’s license. When his award- winning mentor and high school masonry instructor Doug Drye retired, Ryan became a very successful masonry instructor at Mount Pleasant High School, producing state and national champions of his own. He was a finalist for Cabarrus County “Teacher-of-the- Year” in 2014. After teaching, he gained additional useful experience promoting and demonstrating innovative masonry products all across the country with Johnson Concrete/Stalite. They allowed Ryan freedom to promote and recruit young people to masonry careers, including the first ever “Masonry Education Day” at Stalite’s Ben Ketchie Park in 2016.



On his first day on the job, Lynn Nash (left) meets with Eleanor Upton and then-President Doug Burton in Upton Associates’ Raleigh office as management transition takes place in September 1997.



At the January 2018 NCMCA Board of Directors Meeting, then president-elect Kent Huntley, very much aware of the important opportunity presenting itself, successfully proposed that NCMCA create the position, interview, and hire an NCMCA Workforce Development & Training Coordinator. President Bob Gates appointed Kent Huntley, Greg Huntley, Cliff McGee, Bo Black, Calvin Brodie, Danks Burton, Doug Burton, Gary Joyner, and Lynn Nash to the search committee. In February, President Gates announced that Ryan Shaver had accepted the position and would begin employment on March 1, 2018.

History repeated itself. To fund the expense of the new staff position, which was to about double NCMCA's annual budget, member firms and local chapters again committed to yearly pledges. NCMCA successfully applied for multiple grants from the newly created MCAA Masonry Foundation in excess of \$105,000.00. Once again, NCMCA "found a way to do it."

With his broad experience and extensive contacts, Ryan needed little training and began living up to President Bob Gates' "MAD" motto of "Make a Difference" practically from day one. As Ryan would say, he'd been preparing for this role his whole life.

As NCMCA's Workforce Development & Training Coordinator, Ryan quickly developed new programs and pushed existing programs to new levels and effectiveness, including creation of a new groundbreaking pre-apprentice program for high school students. School programs immediately benefited from receiving the renewed attention and encouragement from the masonry industry as coordinated by Shaver. Ryan successfully lobbied for a training trailer. NCMCA's mobile training unit became the envy of workforce development programs in other states. NCMCA's commitment to workforce development quickly drew interest from across the country with Ryan in demand for speaking engagements and workshop appearances all over. Student and apprentice competitions in North Carolina and beyond have benefited from the dedicated management and coordination that Ryan provides. Shaver found ways to maintain momentum even during the difficult COVID-19 years.

Ryan's list of workforce achievements is extensive and just barely covered in this article. It is not an exaggeration to suggest that very few groups have equaled NCMCA's ongoing success in promoting and recruiting for careers in masonry.

When then Executive Vice President Lynn Nash announced his plan to retire at age seventy, Ryan immediately expressed his interest in filling the position. Despite some leadership reservations about how such a staff change might negatively impact NCMCA's workforce development initiatives, there was general agreement that Ryan had earned the promotion and would do well as the association's manager. On the recommendation of the Future Staff Committee, consisting of members Calvin Brodie, Tim Manning, Gary Joyner, Bo Black, Cliff McGee, Kent Huntley, Bob Gates, and Lynn Nash, the board of directors approved the promotion in March 2022 and Ryan assumed the title of NCMCA Executive Vice President September 1, 2022. By the end of 2022, the NCMCA office and the administration of the association began the move from Hickory to a new office in Mount Pleasant.

Ryan will be seventy years old in 2045.

In fifty years, there have only been three NCMCA executive managers. Very few associations of any kind can make that claim. To their detriment, many groups suffer from a virtual "revolving door" of managers. It is perhaps a tribute not only to the three individuals who have held the manager's position, but also a great tribute to NCMCA for providing a strong, supportive and stable partnership between staff and elected leadership. As Lynn Nash was often heard to say, "I've got the best job in the world."

Article by Lynn Nash



Ryan's First Day on the Job!

March 1, 2018

Then-President Bob Gates (right) welcomes Ryan Shaver on Ryan's first day as NCMCA's new Workforce Development & Training Coordinator, March 1, 2018. In 2022, Ryan replaced the retiring Lynn Nash as NCMCA Executive Vice President.

Click here for Lynn's April's Edition
<https://mailchi.mp/93a8368846da/nmca-50th-year-celebration>