



# Brick, Block & Trowel

Masonry Institute Newsletter

December 2005/ Issue 8

## Directors Corner

### HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

The year in review has been a busy one. The focus of the Masonry Institute this past year has been comprised of involvement in legislative issues facing our industry, development of promoting masonry as a system, protecting our market share, yet still forming alliances with other systems. Promoting creative interaction between architects and masons in projects like "It Makes A Village", further development and marketing of the website [www.masonrysystems.org](http://www.masonrysystems.org) with the Executive Directors Council, made up of over 30 masonry associations across the country. This has afforded us many resources that we otherwise would not have been able to attain. The willingness of this group to exchange ideas and information helps us to grow without wasting the resources we have by duplicating efforts.

While these efforts have not resulted in many new memberships this year, we feel it is important to work in a proactive manner to facilitate a reason to want to become a member of the Masonry Institute.

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## Senator George Allen Speaks to Association

On October 4, 2005 our Masonry Institute had the honor and privilege of having Senator George Allen (R-VA) as our guest speaker.

We had a great turnout of membership and distinguished guests numbering over 100 and as usual Maggiano's Tysons II did a fabulous job presenting a wonderful family style dinner. Senator Allen commented that, "he was not used to being served such wonderful food at a speaking engagement."

Senator George Allen addressed our membership on some of the many legislative issues facing our industry today. Immigration reform, tax reform, energy issues, tort reform, OSHA safety issues and the "Silica" exposure mandates that will be coming in the near future.

He was very gracious and spent a good deal of time at the end of his address answering questions posed from our membership. We are very grateful to have been afforded the opportunity to have a distinguished member of Senate take an interest in our masonry association and be willing to inform and address our concerns for the future of our industry.

On behalf of the Masonry Institute, we send our gratitude and our strong support of Senator Allen's political future. He is as down to earth and solid as our masonry product we promote!



From left to right: Rob Greer, L.F. Jennings; Senator George Allen, R-VA; Joyce Greer, Exec. Director MI; Lou Cocks, Pres. MI



**Senator George Allen, addressing the Masonry Institute October 4, 2005 at Maggiano's Tysons II**

**Bill Marceron, General Shale Brick, Senator Allen, and Chip Florence, General Shale Brick**



**Jill Schinski, Mike Ditka and Joyce Greer**



**Peter Eberle, Heritage Contracting, accepting member plaque from Joyce Greer**



## Let's Not Forget!

As we savor the memories of our Holiday Season all across the country, and enter the New Year, we must acknowledge the monumental beauty of the Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia areas we live and work in. Across this country many big cities and small towns are steeped with so many fine traditions that make our holiday celebrations so memorable. We should also admit how very fortunate and blessed we are to be living and working in such a prosperous area of our country. With that being said, let us all be reminded, even though it is no longer top headlines in the news, that other parts of the country, specifically areas down south devastated by the hurricane's are not going to be able to share in the traditions of their holidays of the past. For so many, most if not all of their homes, belongings, memories have been totally eliminated. Efforts and funding relief are still desperately needed to rebuild so many lives devastated by this disaster. We as an association are small, but as an industry of manufacturers, suppliers, contractors, architects etc. we are large enough to make a difference.

Vast amounts of materials, equipment, technical expertise, skilled labor and other resources will be needed in the months and even years to come.

I would like to propose an association along with architectural communities to examine how we may combine efforts and resources to offer some relief for those areas of the country.

—One organization that might be considered is USAID. This government organization has a list of

scores of relief organizations to meet your needs, including American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity International, to name just a couple.

You would be able to find one that is doing some good while avoiding scams or well-intended but poorly run "relief" efforts at [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov).

—A program to match employee donations may be an option to adopt by your company.

—Volunteer opportunities in disaster settings are extremely rare and usually limited to people with prior disaster experience and technical skills, (such as health, engineering, etc.), but if your company has those skills to offer go to [www.cidi.org/datain.htm](http://www.cidi.org/datain.htm) to register.

- Save this for the months ahead, to help remind us that help will be needed for the long-term and you may come up with a great idea on how to contribute.
- I would welcome anyone interested in exploring this issue further by forming and becoming involved in a roundtable discussion on how we as an industry can make a contribution to please contact me @ 866-529-7994 or by e-mail @ [jdgreer@crosslink.net](mailto:jdgreer@crosslink.net).
- We have so much potential as a whole to effect change and make a difference.
- Thank You for the opportunity to address this issue
- Joyce Greer

## Directors Corner

*(continued from page 1)*

There are many challenges facing everyone in the industry. And one of our biggest challenges is in the need for workforce development. The bottom line on any of the issues is having a capable and effective workforce to perform the work. This can only be accomplished by more active involvement by our current membership and developing a task force to help facilitate training that meets the criteria needed. I hope to enlist the help of many of you in the New Year to address this important issue.

Also, we want to further develop our own website in which I encourage each of you to share ideas and submit your present and past projects to be featured in the gallery. This will also be a focus in this year to come. I would also like to take this opportunity to "Thank you" all for the opportunity and challenge of being your Director. I believe that our association is gaining the respect and integrity of the industry through our efforts and there is still a lot of work to be done. I look forward to working with you during the next year and ask that you take an active roll in "Your" association.

Best Regards,  
Joyce Greer

### “It Makes A Village”

**1st Place:** “Tugboat”  
 Architects: RMCH Architects  
 Contractors: R & D Masonry



**MCAA Delegation for the  
Legislative Conference**



**Senator George Allen (R-Va); M.J. Marshall,  
Governor of Affairs, MCAA; Angie Competelli,  
Baltimore Masonry and Frank Competelli, Baltimore  
Masonry and President-Elect MCAA**



**Legislative Conference visit to Congressman  
Manzullo’s Office**



*Legislative Conference photos courtesy of  
Jennie Farnsworth, Masonry Magazine.*



### “It Makes A Village”

**2nd Place (tied):** “Archway to the Village”

Architects: Guarjardo REC Architects, LLC  
Contractors: Restore Masonry



### “It Makes A Village”

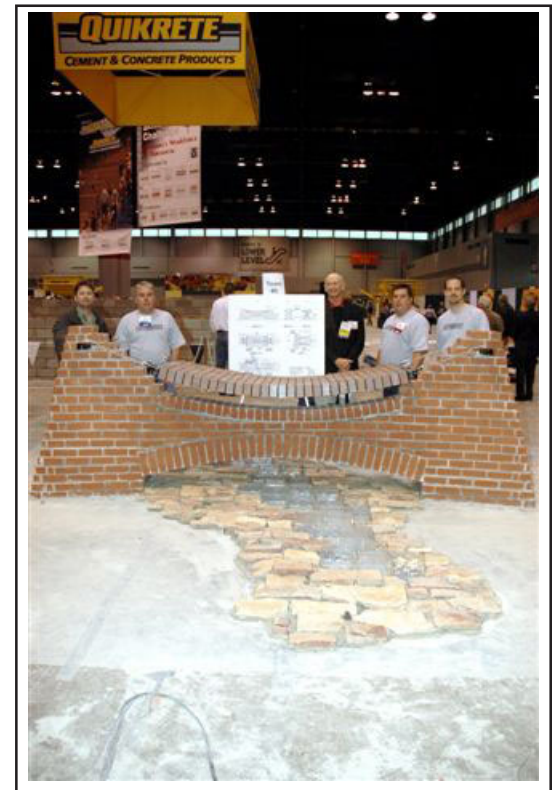
**2nd Place (tied):** “Porch Swing”

Architects: Architectural Nexus  
Contractors: Synder Masonry

### “It Makes A Village”

**3rd Place (tied):** “La-Z-Arch (Brick Hammock)”

Architects: Ninoun Yamasaki Association  
Contractors: Koch Masonry



### “It Makes A Village”

**3rd Place (tied):** “Benches”

Architects: Chicago Benches & MNWWM  
Contractors: Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers  
Local #1 of Washington State



# Apprentice Award to Elizabeth Cleckley

The Masonry Institute, coupled with the MCAA, Mason Contractor's Association recently held their annual apprenticeship competition on Saturday, October 8, 2005. The fine people at Betco/Oldcastle in Gainesville, Va. graciously provided their facility and materials for the event, and then served a lunch to all the participants.

This year the event had 24 apprentices participate in various stages of their apprenticeship, that being 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

This article is about one specific participant. Let me first introduce "her", yes I said "her" as a very focused, dedicated and determined young lady.

Trust me this will be but one article in her future of successes.

Her name is Elizabeth Cleckley, she is eighteen years old and she won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the first year apprenticeship category. She performed her project to the exact specifications required and in record time. She also performed the task with 11 stitches in her hand from slicing it open on the job while cutting flashing earlier in the week.

Elizabeth is currently employed by Baltimore Masonry and her boss Victor Campetelli and her former Vo Tech instructor Mr. Hoover were there to cheer her on. We were all impressed with her abilities, but her personality really sparked an added interest in getting to know this driven young lady better.

I had a chance to interview her for this article and would like to share with our association members and the architectural community and associates we distribute our BB&T to a little closer look at some of the



**Rob Greer with Elizabeth Cleckley of Baltimore Masonry, 1st Place winner for first year apprentice, who will be competing in Las Vegas in the spring!**

talent we have available to us for the future.

When I asked her how she got interested in masonry, she stated that she had always had a desire to see the results for her labor and that interest was sparked and developed by a program offered to her in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

It was an after school program where she was shown many opportunities for the trades. She immediately chose the construction trades for the reason stated above; she thought it was fun to be able to see results from the processes involved. She continued her participation in these programs until 11<sup>th</sup> grade where she was introduced to a teacher named Mr. Hoover

This instructor mentored, encouraged, befriended many of the students, in her words he was awesome and helped her greatly throughout her Vo Tech training. He encouraged her to enter a team competition whereby she was teamed

with a bricklayer, plumber, electrical and carpentry students. She stated they didn't place in the competition, but the experience of seeing how all the trades needed to work together was good enough for the team.

Another side of this story is how proud Mr. Hoover is of her. As I stated earlier, he was there at the apprenticeship competition cheering her on and stated to me that she was one of the best students he had ever had the pleasure of teaching.

Now that she has joined the union bricklaying apprenticeship program she goes back to her Vo Tech center on rainy days sometimes to visit instructors and encourage others in the program.

If you haven't guessed by now, this young lady is going to make it in any capacity she chooses. She has the support of her family and her boyfriend, who is also an apprentice in the third year of his training.

*(continued on page 11)*



These apprentice winners represent

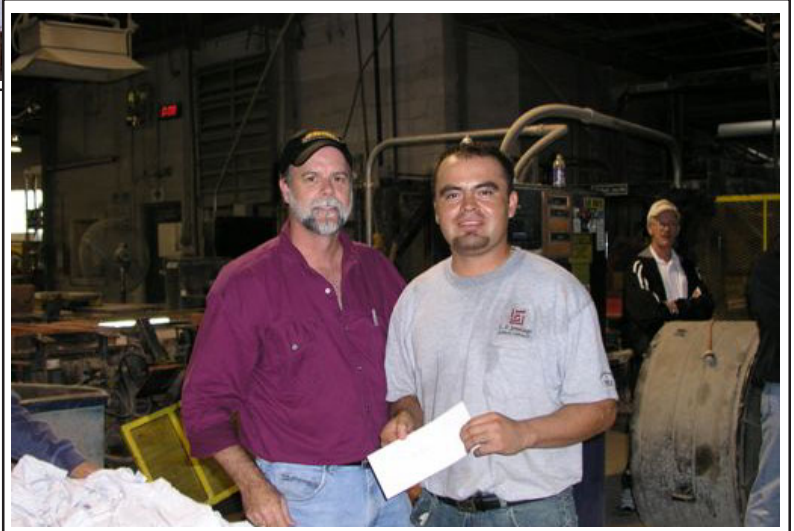
KaRon Masonry



J.D. Long Masonry

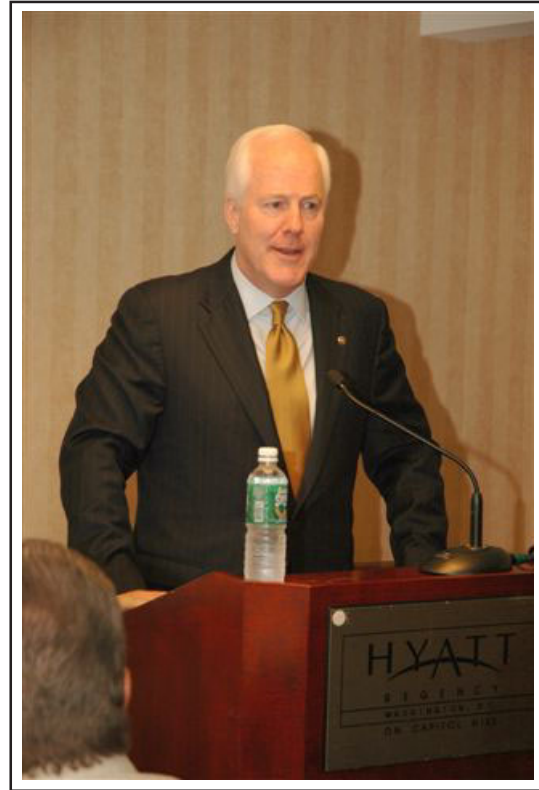


L.F. Jennings, Inc.





**White House Executive Office building**



**Senator John Cornyn of Texas**



**Mackie Bounds getting those Texas boots polished at the Capital**

*Legislative Conference photos courtesy of Jennie Farnsworth, Masonry Magazine.*



**Some age old Capital brickwork**



Seeing the brick fronts of buildings being saved, a "Good Thing"

Frank Gloriso always gets the big piece of the pie.



## Schools Action Committee Formed

Back in August, members came together to form a committee to address issues of county school systems switching to competing wall systems, specifically "panelized" and replacing masonry wall systems.

Don McCauley presented the newspaper article referencing these possible changes taking place in Loudoun County, stating that there is strong opposition between school board members and county supervisors in regard to cutting school construction budgets, which have resulted in masonry wall systems being put in the crosshairs of the cuts.

We have therefore, put together a group of eighteen members who have volunteered their time and

expertise to review, study and adopt a plan of action to protect our market share by means of better educating the planners, facilitators and decision-makers of the value and benefits of total masonry construction.

We have already been able to distribute very valuable information in the form of a CD-Rom, "Building Smarter Schools: Are You Making an Educated Investment?" and a book titled "Are You Building a School ...or a Liability?" Both of these tools are comprised of the expertise of Chris Huckabee, an architect, engineer and construction management specialist with extensive speaking and writing experience. He is joined by Dr. Don

Bell, another noted expert in his field and Superintendent of Schools in PA.

Both of these gentleman, are available for seminars and it is the hope and goal of the committee with strong support from our membership, to possibly partner with other associations to hold a seminar in late spring to facilitate presenting an informative message to our target entities that make the decisions on the schools in our market.

We encourage and welcome further participation and support by any other members who may be interested in this development plan.

Whether you build schools or not, you still have a vested interest in this market share for the industry as a whole.

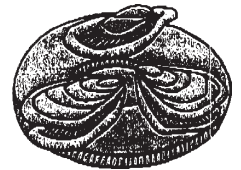


Mark your calendar!

Dance the day away!

# MASONRY INSTITUTE OF MD'S BULL & OYSTER ROAST

Enjoy a Day of Great Food, Good Friends  
and Super Music from



“THE KLASSIX”



The party lasts from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at

*Michael's Eighth Avenue in Glen Burnie, MD*

**Sunday, February 12, 2006**

- Pit Beef • Oysters • Virginia Baked Ham • All the fixins'

- Beer • Soda

Plus a bunch of

- Door Prizes • Raffles • Games Galore!



***Reserve Your Table Now!  
Tickets are Limited  
Last Year's Event was a Sell-Out!***

**Tickets are still just \$35 each.  
Contact Rob Bertazon at (410) 515-1733 to order tickets.**

# 2006 Legislative Conference Announced

The MCAA has announced that the next Masonry Industry Legislative Conference will be held April 24-26, 2006 in Washington, DC. They have received confirmation from the National Concrete Masonry Association, the Brick Industry Association and the Building Stone Institute that all three will officially co-sponsor the 2006 conference. This is a huge sign of alliance for four associations to come together in support of this industry.

On behalf of our Masonry Institute, I encourage our membership to mark your calendars now and plan to attend this event. Ten of our members attended the legislative conference last summer and each of them would tell you it was well worth the time spent. Those people drafting and enacting legislation on the Hill are interested in the concerns and interests of our associations, and we can make a difference by becoming involved.

## Apprentice Award

*(continued from page 6)*

Her career working on jobsites with Baltimore Masonry has included the Spinnaker Bay project, an 18-story condo, where she said when she started they were on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor-now she rides by and it is completed and she feels a real sense of pride that she got to work on that project and see it completed. She stated she has been treated very fairly on the jobsites and the foremen have been very willing to help her learn the correct methods of her masonry trade. I am sure this is because she is a hard worker and shows to be genuine in wanting to do the best she can.

She is now working on a Forensics Lab being built in Md. I have to tell you, this young lady is

an inspiration to me. I hear so many people say, we can't get young people interested in the trades; well she is a fine example of how a good program and a dedicated instructor can hold promise for the future of our industry. Now if we could just "Clone" that instructor. We need more retiring masons to maybe impart some of their knowledge and experience with those young people who really need a direction to be encouraged to explore.

I know one thing – Elizabeth will represent her first year apprentices in Las Vegas next year in March at MCAA's Showcase and she will be a big hit and continue to make us all proud of her accomplishments!

**YOU GO GIRL!!**

# Craftsmanship Awards Update

The Masonry Institute is happy to announce that the craftsmanship awards received 25 entries. The projects submitted were located in DC, Maryland and Virginia and have been viewed by a panel of judges with the final results pending. The banquet for the awards will be announced soon and will likely be held in late January or mid-February, depending on scheduling availability. We look forward to recognizing the fine workmanship our industry workforce produces in our surrounding area.

## Safety Tip

OSHA defines "competent person" as "one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them." Be as diligent a competent person regarding safety issues as you are directing the work on your project. They go together.

## MASONRY INSTITUTE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY,  
JANUARY 17 and 18, 2006**

BRICK FORUM NORTH CAROLINA  
WORLD OF CONCRETE with WORLD OF MASONS  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2006**

“MIMI” BULL & OYSTER ROAST  
MICHAEL’S EIGHTH AVENUE IN GLEN BURNIE, MD  
(see insert for details)

**MID-LATE FEBRUARY  
TBA**

CRAFTSMANSHIP AWARDS

**MARCH 29-31, 2006**

MCAA’S MASONRY SHOWCASE  
CONSTRUCT AMERICA  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

On behalf of the Masonry Institute, we would like to thank Don McCauley of **Falls Church Construction**, Brian Reilly of **York Building Products** and Bill Stynes of **J. D. Long Masonry** for graciously agreeing to sponsor this issue of *Brick, Block & Trowel*.

**Don McCauley**  
**FALLS CHURCH CONSTRUCTION**  
Fairfax, Virginia

**Bill Stynes**  
**J. D. LONG MASONRY**  
Newington, Virginia

**Brian Reilly**  
**YORK BUILDING PRODUCTS**  
York, Pennsylvania

**Masonry Institute, Inc.**  
P. O. Box 707  
Fall Church, VA 22046