



# Brick, Block & Trowel

Masonry Institute Newsletter

January / Issue 13

## Directors Corner

### Happy New Year Masonry Institute Members

On behalf of our Masonry Institute, I would like to welcome each member into a New Year of our continued efforts to grow our association and make your membership worthwhile by providing great venues for learning, networking and promoting our industry.

Last year we devised our Strategic Plan and now we have the task of each Committee formed and there are six, to put these plans to action. They are as follows:

- Vocational Training
- Architectural Education
- Market Share
- Associations
- Legislative
- Networking & Social

The chairs for each committee are responsible for setting up their meetings and reporting to the Board on their actions. We invite any member who is willing to devote some extra time to please contact myself at 866-529-7994 and I will be happy to put you in touch with the chair of the committee of your choice.

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## Past and Present Presidents of Masonry Institute



*Left to Right: Charles Tiches, Lou Cocks Jr., Joyce Greer, Dante Macario and Camillo De Camillo*

At the last dinner meeting of the year November 13<sup>th</sup> the Masonry Institute inducted the new Executive Board. They are as follows:

President: Charles Tiches  
Betco/ Supreme/ Oldcastle  
Vice President: Rob Greer  
L.F. Jennings, Inc.  
Secretary: Bill Stynes  
J.D. Long Masonry  
Treasurer: Brendan Quinn  
Ernest Maier, Inc.

We are very pleased to know that the good leadership tradition lives on within our association. We also wish to express our gratitude for these gentlemen's willingness to continue our tradition of providing leadership for our industry through the strong ties of our association.

We also want to acknowledge our extreme appreciation to our immediate past President, Mr. Lou Cocks, owner of Masonry Design for his extended service to our association and determination to see us through the rough times as well as the good.

And last, we were able to get a photo of a few of our past Presidents, who without their commitment and service we wouldn't have the association we have today. Each of these wonderful men has been so gracious in teaching, guiding and supporting me in my position as Executive Director and I owe them a great big "Thank You" for their continued support. These gentlemen are Dante Macario, retired, Genco Masonry and Camillo De Camillo, J.D. Long Masonry.

# Masonry Skills Challenge Held in October

MCAA Region “A” Skills Challenge was held October 13, 2007 in Gainesville, Virginia.

Betco / Supreme, (an Oldcastle company) sponsored the event and Spec Mix supplied the mortar for all 23 apprentices.

Additional sponsors were Brick & Block Tool Shop, Hohmann & Barnard, L.C. Smith Brick, Potomac Valley Brick, Ernest Maier Block, and L.F. Jennings.

The group photo below represents a continued dedication by our members to foster the workforce of tomorrow. The Masonry Institute is proud of the level of participation and support shown by our association.

The first place winners for each year level of apprentice and who will each be able to compete in January 2008 at MCAAs’ National Skills Challenge held at World of Concrete/ World of Masonry are pictured at right.

We also like to extend a special “Thank You” to the folks who came out on a Saturday to Judge:  
 Chip Florence/ General Shale



Left to Right: 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, Matt Beck of EGS Masonry; 1<sup>st</sup> Year, Jim Radakovich of J.D. Long Masonry; 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Vincent Rodriguez, of Ka Ron Masonry

Lynne De Witt/ L.C. Smith  
 Brick  
 Donald Blue/ Donald Blue  
 Construction  
 Bernie Mallon/ Brick & Block  
 Tool Shop  
 Curtis Hoover/ Center of  
 Applied Technology North

A great barbecue lunch was provided for everyone by our Host, Betco/Supreme and each participant went home with tools, hats, tee shirts, and equipment of the trade generously donated by many of our suppliers. Thanks to you all who *helped make this event a success!*



# EXPO! EXPO! EXPO!

The Masonry Institute has been busy assembling what we feel will be a premier event for our masonry industry in the Virginia, Maryland, and D.C. corridor.

Masonry Expo will be held Thursday April 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, VA. The time will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., each day. We have enlisted help from some of the most knowledgeable and well respected speakers from all over the country. There will be 18-20 seminars with continuing learning credits to choose from and each seminar offered will be held at least twice a day for flexibility. There will be a topic of interest for anyone designing a building with masonry in today's environment. LEED / GREEN topics will be at the forefront of many of the seminars.

Registration will begin online at our website [www.masonryinstitute.us](http://www.masonryinstitute.us) and payment will be easily made through "PayPal" online.

The latest and most innovative material manufacturers will be on hand to offer information on the best practices and specifications to aid Architects in understanding how

masonry provides sustainability, cost efficiency, improved life cycle costs and the esthetic results most owners, developers and state and local governments are looking for.

The most intriguing aspect included in the Expo and never before brought to our region is a Design/Build competition called, Masonry, "It Makes a Village."



Design teams have been teamed with masons and will construct over the two days a small project that could be found in a village. Local Architects have challenged themselves to be a part of this fun and educational event. Team building, collaboration of design and craftsmanship, promise to give the audience and all participants a worthwhile experience.

Students from local vocational training centers along with their instructors will be on hand and involved with the processes on some

level. We want them to have the first hand experience of working with these teams and reinforcing why a career in masonry can be creative, exciting and fun along with the hard work. There is prize money for 1<sup>st</sup> \$2,500, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$1,500 and 3<sup>rd</sup>, \$1,000, plus a peoples choice award.

We have invited the architectural schools to be represented in the Village competition and will also be invited to any of the seminars they might wish to attend.

We hope you mark your calendars now and plan to attend one day or both days. There are times when we need to get out of our offices and take a look at what is going on in our industry

first hand, especially when it comes to fostering better relationships, encouraging the workforce of our industry, networking and learning what new tools are out there to help you do your job better. There's none of us that can't learn something new and benefit from it many times over.

**SO COME SEE  
THE EXPO!**

# Masonry Systems Org

A great amount of work has been ongoing to develop a comprehensive and accessible resource tool in our industry. The past year, our council has worked with professional web developers to create the infrastructure and design for a comprehensive internet site. The re-launch of [www.masonrysystems.org](http://www.masonrysystems.org) will take place in April 2008.

The team of creative and innovative designers, along with the top technical experts from around the country have been compiling the most accurate and up-to-date information to bring the website to the ultimate goal; a unified source of information and promotion for the total masonry wall system.

The finished site will have three major components:

## **INSPIRATION:**

If a picture is worth a thousand words, just imagine how hundreds of pictures of outstanding masonry architecture will inspire your designers and developers. Visit our online gallery of the best in masonry design from all over North America. Discover the beauty and versatility of brick, block and stone by browsing our Masonry Showcase. Learn about people and challenges behind our viewers' favorite work by clicking on our Featured Project of the Month. Think your own work might inspire others? Submit your project to our editors and become part of our growing collection of great work.

## **INFORMATION:**

Your customers will get smart here. They'll learn why masonry structures outlast and outperform every other building system. They'll figure out which masonry wall system is right for their next building and what it will cost. They'll even

discover how to detail their structure for maximum durability and beauty. Find data, articles, presentations and videos about every aspect of masonry design and construction, from fire ratings to moisture control, cost-cutting strategies to cleaning practices.

## **INTERACTION:**

Ask for a second opinion, or contribute one. Here you'll find instant access to your colleagues in the masonry community. Post and read messages, ask questions, or submit industry announcements on the electronic bulletin board. Contribute articles for inclusion in or online magazine. This is an active platform for discussion about new ideas and building techniques, and the best place to find out what's new in the masonry marketplace.

Masonrysystems.org will become our customers' destination of choice, the gateway to all the industry resources and information they need to design and build a high performance masonry structure. The easier it is for them to understand our products and systems, the more our customers will specify them. We all win.

I would like to appeal to each member of our Masonry Institute, Associates, and Architects who are reading this to give strong consideration for contributing to this effort. We have had many fabulous masonry projects in our Nations Capital, and throughout Maryland and Virginia. Content is being submitted daily from across the country and you can easily access the information needed to submit yours. Go to the website [www.masonrysystems.org](http://www.masonrysystems.org) and upload the information we need for submission. We are asking for

award-winning masonry design of every type, technical specifications and architectural details for the most popular masonry wall systems and cost comparisons by region. It may look a little daunting at first but I would hope that we would want our region of the country to be well represented. Please! Please! Take the time to contribute.

## **New Year New Memberships**

On behalf of the Masonry Institute we are proud to welcome to our association the following new members:

Rockcast (division of Reading Rock)

Contact: Pat Pullen

E-Mail: [pullen@readingrock.com](mailto:pullen@readingrock.com)

Hohmann & Barnard

Contact: Lisa Cunningham

E-Mail: [LisaC@h-b.com](mailto:LisaC@h-b.com)

Greco Corp. dba/Greco Masonry

Contact: Greg Sproles

E-Mail: [Gregs@grecomasonry.com](mailto:Gregs@grecomasonry.com)

We look forward to working with our new members as we continue restoring and growing our association.

Greg Sproles has already teamed with Hughes Architects to compete in the Masonry, "It Makes a Village" at the Masonry Expo! How's that for joining and supporting our important venture! So happy to have them onboard!

## Directors Corner

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The big event on our calendar is the Masonry Expo, scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, VA.

It is of utmost importance for each of our members to plan on attending and participating. Volunteering for assistance on the show floor will be needed and we want you to plan to bring your foreman and superintendents from the contractors' side to five great seminars we have planned for anyone in the masonry business. This will be an optimum time for our suppliers to exhibit their products and help educate the architects on how best to use masonry in their design and building

processes. There will be something for everyone and we will be doing our utmost to ensure each attendee comes away with a worthwhile experience and some new found knowledge.

Most important we want our members to be actively engaged in this event for the promotion of our industry. We all have an equal obligation to support this important endeavor. We want our association to stand out in the efforts of education and collaboration with the architectural community. So please mark your calendars now! Thursday April 3, and Friday April 4<sup>th</sup> 2008.

Visit our website for the most up to date information. Registration and payment will be available online shortly. If you need any assistance or have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 866-529-7994 toll free. Bill Stynes is committee chair and he will be happy to assist any of your needs too. He may be reached at 703-550-8880 ext# 218.

I look forward to seeing each and every member at the EXPO!

Best Regards,

Joyce Greer  
Executive Director



*An example of past "It makes a Village" projects, the "Swing" and the "Tugboat" behind it.*

## MASONRY INSTITUTE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 21 <sup>st</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup>	World of Concrete/ World of Masonry, Las Vegas, NV MCAAs' Premier w/ WOC/WOM
February 10 <sup>th</sup>	Masonry Institute of Maryland Annual Shrimp & Bull Roast 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Michael's Eighth Ave. Glen Burnie MD. Baltimore's Top Band "Klassix" performing More Info: Contact Chris Formhals 410-952-9010
April 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	Masonry Expo with Masonry," It Makes a Village" Design/ Build Competition, 18 seminars w/ CLU's GREEN/LEED Information Manufacturers and Suppliers of the best masonry materials in the market today.
May Date TBD	Maggiano's Tysons II
May Date TBD	MCAA Legislative Conference, Capital Hill

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Falls Church, VA 22046

**J.D. Long Masonry**  
PO Box 1457  
Newington, VA. 22122

**Masonry Design, Inc.**  
10335 Balls Ford Road  
Manassas, VA. 20109

**L. C. Smith Brick, Inc.**  
5920 Farrington Ave.  
Alexandria, VA. 2230

On behalf of the *Masonry Institute*, we would like to thank: **Brad Reed, L.F. Jennings, Inc.; Bill Stynes, J.D. Long Masonry; Lou Cocks Jr., Masonry Design, Inc. and Pete Jacques, L.C. Smith Brick Inc** for graciously agreeing to sponsor this issue of *Brick, Block & Trowel*.

**Masonry Institute, Inc.**  
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