

CM NEWS

Volume 34 • Number 5 • May 2004

Read by *movers and shakers* in the concrete masonry industry

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Paul & Helen Lenchuk Tournaments Raise Money for the NCMA Foundation



The annual Paul and Helen Lenchuk Golf and Tennis Tournaments will take place on the afternoon of Saturday, August 7, during NCMA's Midyear Meeting. The two tournaments raise money for the NCMA Research and Education Foundation, which allocates scholarship money to college undergraduates or graduate students studying concrete masonry. This year's golf and tennis tournaments will be held at the River Marsh Golf Club, conveniently located on property at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Resort.

The Lenchuk Scholarship was created in 1988 in honor of Paul and Helen Lenchuk. Paul Lenchuk, NCMA's executive director from 1968-1972 and president from 1973-1985, and his wife, Helen, were instrumental in advancing the concrete masonry industry during their time. The latest

Lenchuk scholarship was awarded to Adam Hogan from Clemson University. Adam was awarded a \$6,000 scholarship in support of his research entitled, "Verification of Software for the Structural Design of Concrete Masonry".

Everyone, regardless of his or her level of play is encouraged to participate. It is a great opportunity for members to network while supporting the concrete masonry industry. Other opportunities to support the tournaments are available through sponsorships including the Hole-in-One prize, individual hole sponsorships, and the ever-popular beverage cart. Call NCMA's Meetings & Conventions Department at 703.713.1900 for additional information. ■

Strategic Planning Well Underway

Strategic and long-range planning are focal points for NCMA's work plan development. Last May, the NCMA Long-Range Planning Committee met to consider scenarios for the future of the concrete masonry industry and forwarded to the Board of Directors a new long-range plan which was approved in July 2003. That plan consists of goals and objectives chosen for the purpose of moving the association toward a common vision.

From the long-range plan, committees within the association have selected strategies and tactics which, when applied each year, help to achieve long-range objectives and goals. When approved by the board, the final document includes goals, objectives, strategies and tactics. That document is the association's annual work plan. Work plans for 2005 and 2006 are both under development and will be presented for board review and approval at the Midyear Meeting in August.

Too often, books that purport to help companies see into and make plans for the future fail to deliver really useful techniques. Of course, the impossibility of seeing into the future is largely responsible for this shortcoming. However, Schwarz' approach has remained consistently credible since first published in 1991 and is often used by business consultants who help companies plan for the future. Those who use Schwarz' approach are not guaranteed that they will be right about the future but many have adopted his approach believing their chances for being wrong about the future will decrease. Organizations, both large and small, have reported using the scenario approach to long-range planning to growth their businesses faster and expand their markets.

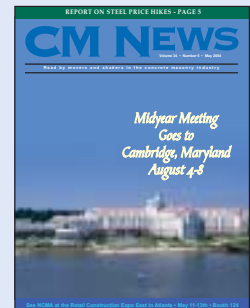
"The Art of The Long View" was published by Currency Doubleday, a division of Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc., and is available in most retail bookstores. ■

"The Art of the Long View"

Strategic and long-range planning are part science and part art. Several large for-profit and not-for-profit organizations have used the process successfully to reach their objectives faster. Managers and owners of NCMA member companies who would like to learn more about strategic and long-range planning for their own companies may find a book called "The Art of the Long View" useful. Some thirteen years ago, Peter Schwartz, president of Global Business Network, authored "The Art of the Long View". The focal point of Schwartz' book centered on the "scenario" approach to strategic and long range planning, a concept originally developed within Royal/Dutch Shell. Schwartz conducted first hand scenario exercises with the world's leading institutions and companies, including the White House, EPA, BellSouth and the International Stock Exchange.

About our Cover...

This summer's Midyear Meeting is scheduled August 4-8 in Cambridge, Maryland. This midyear will host the second annual Town Hall meeting. The Town Hall meeting is part of a year-round member-driven process that provides open discussion to the entire membership about any issues. Last year's Town Hall meeting was well attended and set the tone for three productive forums at the Annual Convention earlier this year.



Design-Build Process Predicted to Heavily Impact Market Share

The handwriting is on the wall: those who don't acknowledge and become more involved in design-build may not be equipped to retain or expand their markets in the future. This important prediction came as part of a presentation by Dave Crawford, P.E., of the Design Build Institute of America and others who spoke at a recent design-build conference. Design-build is a method of project delivery where one entity (the designer-builder) has a single contract with the owner to provide both architectural/engineering design and construction services. This one entity has absolute accountability for both design and construction. While there are numerous advantages to design-build, the process also comes with challenges and risks.



Non-traditional approaches to construction such as accelerated schedules, unique financing options or multiple vested partners, and alternative delivery methods such as design-build, are proving to be a very progressive way to facilitate construction.

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Experts on design-build indicate that as more states revise their laws to allow design-build, design-build could constitute an estimated 70 percent of all projects.

At its best, design-build offers a single point of responsibility, better quality, cost savings, time savings, and fewer claims and legal issues. Because of this, design-build is already the project

delivery system of choice for many public projects and is becoming the choice of an increasing number of private sector projects, including hospitals, educational facilities, office buildings, retail centers and hotels.

Experts on design-build indicate that as more states revise their laws to allow design-build, design-build could constitute an estimated 70 percent of all projects. Of course, this means there is still 30 percent of the market that will continue to follow the more traditional design-bid-build process. However, as the move to design-build grows, small businesses may be at a greater risk of losing market share.

With the increased responsibility that a design-build company assumes for a project, so comes increased risk. The design-build firm is completely responsible and liable for any problems with the project. Also, the design-build process involves a break in tradition and culture of a well-established industry. This requires a paradigm shift and requires design-build firms to develop new relationships and establish trust with people they can depend upon to deliver. This is not an easy transition for most, with industry statistics claiming that almost 90 percent of design-build partnerships fail to partner again.

Success in design-build depends upon relationships built over time, requires seeking out opportunities that make sense, selecting a qualified team and developing a creative environment that will bring out the best in each of the team members. ■

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Construction Industry Searching for Solutions to Steel Price Hikes

Sharp increases in steel prices are affecting architects, contractors, and builders in North America who are looking for solutions that involve using less steel. Global steel and scrap prices have skyrocketed in recent weeks and market analysts point to extraordinary demand and consumption of steel by China as reasons for the increased prices.

A leading supplier of steel market information, MEPS International, reports hikes in price between February 2003 and February 2004 as high as 65.5 percent. Reinforcing bars, which averaged \$249 per ton a year ago is up to \$412 per ton. Medium sections and steel beams that sold last year for \$336 per ton are now selling for \$491 per ton. Wire mesh, which averaged \$257 per ton last year is now at \$403 per ton.

On the scrap metal side of the industry, Tom Danjczek, president of the Steel Manufacturers Association in Washington D.C. said, "An emergency steel scrap coalition has been formed to study what has caused scrap prices to go up and what the impact will be on our customers." The coalition points to purchases made by China and South Korea that account for half of all U.S. exports. The coalition warns that construction, a mainstay of the U.S. economy, faces direct harm from sharply increased steel scrap prices and that construction companies of all sizes will be impacted by the crisis.

Bob Klee, Director of Technical Services and Architectural Consulting for Clayton Block Co., Inc. in New Jersey commented, "We've been talking to architects about using load-bearing concrete masonry because of the shortages expected and the increasing cost of steel. In our discussions with the architects, we've found this steel price hike is wreaking havoc with their business...they are getting requests for changes in all sorts of projects due to the increased costs. Contractors are caught in the middle on this issue. We're advising the architects we talk with to put up high strength masonry walls and spread the columns out. That is a solution that would considerably reduce the quantity of steel required and lower the costs."

A report issued last month by architectural firm Davis Langdon Adams addresses the high demand and prices for steel products and warns of the impact on project schedules. The report says, "As demand increases and supplies shrink, some projects have faced delays in receiving needed materials. This can have a significant impact not only on budget, but also on the ability for the projects to be completed in a timely and efficient fashion."

From a contractor's point of view, Chris Payne, an estimator for McDonough Bolyard Peck, Inc., a major east coast contracting company said, "The huge increases in steel prices are affecting everything and the situation is in such flux that steel suppliers won't guarantee prices for more than a week.

We're also having a problem getting architects to agree to loosen some of their specifications. Some of the jobs we're bidding are scheduled in 2005, which makes projecting real costs impossible."

Brian Buehner from Buehner Block Company, Inc. in Salt Lake City reports talking with designers in his market

who are looking for cost-cutting solutions. Buehner says, "Architects are worried about getting projects moving and constructed before being hit by another round of hikes in steel prices. Architects are in a panic mode."

The price increases and expectations of even greater prices have contractors scrambling. Robert Baxter, who handles construction administration for the Mosley Group in Richmond, an architectural firm with a heavy focus on building schools said, "Contractors are

scrambling to get any submittals that require steel in so they can lock down their prices before the increases. Everybody is in a state of panic about it. The word from suppliers is that a price increase is imminent."

Continued on page 8



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Subcommittee formed to Analyze Recycled Materials Use

Representatives from the U.S. Green Building Council report that nearly 10 percent of new office buildings under construction are registered under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system. However, few of those registered buildings are currently able to earn enough points to become LEED certified. Points in the LEED system are elusive and designers are looking for easy places to get them. Many designers will look for concrete masonry units on their projects to support their efforts. Concrete masonry units could become one solution to an important design consideration.

NCMA's new Production Technology and Operations Subcommittee will focus on and evaluate the appropriate use of recycled materials in the production of concrete masonry. Their goal is to produce guidelines for use by those manufacturers that are undergoing the process of experimenting with production using un-conventional materials. "We are looking for the participation of those in our industry who have had experience with manufacturing concrete masonry units with recycled materials to assist us with this effort," said Billy Wauhup, chairman of the Production Technology and Operations Subcommittee.

A building can achieve one point toward the 26 needed for LEED certification by having 10 percent of the total weight of materials used in the building made from recycled materials. Therefore, achieving 10 percent or more recycled material within the concrete masonry unit itself can put the designer a lot closer to achieving this rating. For this reason, some concrete masonry producers are already seeing specifications that require concrete masonry units to be manufactured using 10 percent or more recycled materials.

As these requests continue to rise, producers and designers are asking; what is considered a recycled material? The LEED rating system breaks down recycled material into two different categories: post-consumer and post-industrial.

Post-consumer materials are those that come from products that were used in service by a consumer for its original intended purpose and then recycled and used for a new purpose. For the concrete masonry industry, an example of post-consumer materials would be concrete masonry units that were salvaged from a building being demolished and were either cleaned-up and re-used in a new structure or crushed and used as an aggregate. Another post-consumer example would be if a manufacturer used rubber from recycled tires or crushed glass from recycled bottles.

As an aggregate substitute, post-industrial materials are those that originate as waste during the production of another material. The key to achieving this classification for a material, however, is that it must be separately "sold, traded, or exchanged under commercial terms...and that would otherwise have been landfilled." Therefore, if a manufacturer pulls imperfect units off the production line, crushes them, and recycles the material to produce new units, that material is not considered recycled material under the LEED system. If a producer purchased imperfect units from another manufacturer and crushed those for use as an aggregate, a case might be able to be made for it being recycled material if it otherwise would have gone to the landfill. However, a credit interpretation ruling would likely be necessary for that case. A more common example would be the use of fly-ash as a cement replacement. The use of blast-furnace slag cement

can also contribute in this area.

LEED provides much more preferential treatment to post-consumer recycled materials, since it only allows half of the post-industrial content to

count toward achieving the 10 percent.

What impact will this demand for recycled content have on the concrete masonry industry? Many specifiers will have little understanding of what potential recycled materials could or should be used in the production of concrete masonry units. Many manufacturers may rush to meet demands and expectations by expediting in-plant experimentation to see what recycled materials they can work into a concrete masonry unit without adversely affecting the aesthetics and performance characteristics of the unit.

ASTM C 90; Standard Specification for Loadbearing Concrete Masonry Units, performance requirements have proven satisfactory when conventional raw materials are used as the constituents for unit production. When non-conventional materials are used in manufacturing concrete masonry products are there associated performance issues that may need to be addressed. ■

Those interested in participating in this effort should contact NCMA at 703.713.1900 or ncma@ncma.org. For more information about concrete masonry's role in sustainable design and the LEED program, refer to NCMA's new TEK 6-9A, Concrete Masonry and the LEED program.

Representatives from the U.S. Green Building Council reported that nearly 10 percent of new office buildings under construction are registered under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system.

LEED Rating System to get Careful Scrutiny

Concern about the LEED rating system has grown because it appears to discount many masonry advantages including its durability and its reuse of materials in the manufacturing process. Because of these concerns and the desire to provide sound technical knowledge on masonry to the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), the Masonry Industry Council (MIC), of which NCMA is a member along with other national masonry associations, contacted The Masonry Society (TMS) last year to request TMS to serve on the USGBC on behalf of the masonry community. (NCMA is not a member of USGBC and, as a trade association, is not permitted to join that organization as a result of their by-laws. While NCMA plans, nonetheless, to be active at USGBC, it will work through this in an official capacity to advance masonry's interests.) Through recent negotiations, TMS and MIC entered into a contractual agreement whereby MIC will help fund TMS in their efforts to provide masonry representation on the USGBC. TMS also created a Sustainability Subcommittee to help form positions to take to the USGBC for consideration.

Christine Subasic of C. Callista Subasic, will serve as TMS' representative on the USGBC, and will receive counsel from TMS' new Sustainability Subcommittee, chaired by J. Patrick Rand from North Carolina State University. That subcommittee in turn reports to TMS' Architectural

Practices Committee chaired by Rochelle Jaffe from NTH Consultants, Ltd.

The USGBC is a diverse coalition that works to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable, and healthy places to live and work. Recently, the USGBC's LEED Green Building Rating System™ has caught the attention of numerous designers who hope to provide more sustainable building systems. LEED is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. Members of the USGBC representing all segments of the building industry developed LEED and continue to contribute to its evolution.

LEED is intended to provide a framework for assessing building performance and meeting sustainability goals. It emphasizes state of the art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. LEED recognizes achievements and promotes expertise in green building through a comprehensive system offering project certification, professional accreditation, training and practical resources. ■

Visit The Masonry Society online for membership information or to become active in their Sustainability Subcommittee at www.masonrysociety.org.

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Pennsylvania and Washington State Spearhead New Code for Fire-Safe Construction

Showing greater concern for fire safe construction, the states of Washington and Pennsylvania have both adopted and begun statewide enforcement of the premiere edition of the International Urban-Wildland Interface Code (IUWIC) published by the International Code Council.

With the rash of fires that swept through California late last year, destroying more than 2,100 homes and causing more than \$1 billion in losses, several other states have begun considering adopting the IUWIC into law. Setting the trend, Washington and Pennsylvania are spearheading the effort of moving toward improved fire-safety and increased reliance on noncombustible construction.

The IUWIC establishes minimum regulations for land use and the built environment in designated urban-wildland



A wildfire raging through mountainous areas illustrates the need for new fire-safe construction

interface areas (the geographical area where structures and other human development meets or intermingles with wildland or vegetative fuels) using prescriptive and performance-related provisions. The objective of the IUWIC is to establish minimum fire-resistance standards (above the requirements set forth in the International Building Code) to locate, design, and construct structures to protect life and property, to resist damage from

wildfires, and to mitigate building and structure fires from spreading to wildland fuels. While comprehensive, the minimum requirements established by the IUWIC vary as a function of perceived hazard and threat.

Depending upon the threat of exposure and protective resources, buildings and other structures constructed within urban-wildland interface areas would need to comply with one of three different categories of ignition-resistant construction:

- Class 1 (extreme fire hazard),
- Class 2 (high fire hazard), or
- Class 3 (moderate fire hazard).

The requirements for Class 1 and 2 construction contain a comprehensive list of provisions for roofing materials, protection of eaves, and exterior glazing and doors. Of noteworthy mention are the requirements addressing exterior walls. For Class 1 and Class 2 ignition-resistant construction, the exterior walls are required to be constructed using 1-hour fire-resistance-rated materials on the exterior side of the wall or constructed with noncombustible materials.

While 1-hour fire-resistance ratings may not seem like much compared to many commercial and multi-family applications requiring 2, 3, or 4-hour fire-resistance-rated assemblies, consider the following example. Under existing code provisions, the vast majority of the exterior walls in detached single-family construction are not required to have any resistance against exterior exposure to fire. As a result of this lenient requirement, a common exterior wall assembly in detached single-family housing consists of wood stud framing sheathed with OSB or plywood and clad with vinyl siding or wood clapboard. Common sense and intuition tell us that wood assemblies such as these wouldn't last an hour with direct exposure to fire. Further, because most exterior walls also serve as loadbearing assemblies, the requirements become even more difficult for these assemblies. ■

Steel Price Hikes

Continued from page 5

Dave Jollay, head of Jollay Masonry Contractors in Atlanta reports the steel price hikes are beginning to impact the masonry industry but said, "I do not think any of us are aware yet of how much the impact will be. Certainly with the price hikes on our wire-tie and reinforcing components, stainless steel counter flashings, and reinforcing bars for structural design we will see an increase to our in-place wall costs. The assumption is that our competitors will be more negatively impacted, and while that may be true you have to keep things in their proper perspective. For example, a steel stud wall system will certainly be impacted, but the raw material cost of the steel is probably 25-30 percent of the total wall cost. So, the overall price per square foot is not going to double. In fact their industry will do all that they can to minimize the price spike and the resulting loss of market share."

Mark B. Hogan, president of the National Concrete Masonry Association, said "There may be some increases in the cost of reinforcing steel used in reinforced concrete masonry wall systems. However, this increase is far less than competitive systems. Concrete masonry wall systems are more cost competitive as a result of steel price increases and remain an excellent product of choice for designers and builders and will remain so even when the economic situation for steel becomes more stable." ■

National Training Center Working to Prepare Tomorrow's Workforce

“With a national training network and a flagship National Training Center, IMI apprenticeship and training programs are busy training today’s masons. But we are also preparing for tomorrow’s workforce, with several initiatives in recruitment and workforce development,” says IMI Apprenticeship and Training National Director Steve Martini. “Our goal is to increase the pool of masons.”

The International Masonry Institute (IMI) is a joint labor management trust dedicated to market promotion and training of the unionized masonry industry. IMI serves members of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC) and the contractors who employ them. IMI programs are supported by contributions collectively bargained at the local or regional level.

IMI organizes several training programs based on what the local or regional needs are at a given time. One of their most successful programs is the National Training Center, plus regional facilities throughout the United States and mobile training units that deliver quality training on an as-needed basis. Called the “Rapid Response Training Team,” IMI’s traveling trailer is a temporary satellite-training program used to satisfy an immediate training demand. When

15 or more workers are needed in a specific area and no training center is within a reasonable commute, IMI is notified and the trailer is dispatched. Pre-job programs are completed in 12 to 14 weeks and trainees are sent to a job site to begin work. IMI has 12 training facilities around the country plus the National Training Center in Maryland. Throughout the year pre-job training, courses are offered in bricklaying, stone masonry, tile setting, terrazzo, plastering, concrete masonry, and pointing, caulking and cleaning.

Advanced masonry courses are also offered to hone experienced masons skills and offer cross-craft training at all levels. But, IMI’s training goes beyond just training skilled workers and masons. “Masonry Camp” brings architects and engineers together for a week with apprentice craftworkers. As they team up on a design-build challenge, each learns how the other thinks and performs their job. The result is enhanced awareness of how the building process could, and should, work. The architects and engineers get a greater appreciation for masonry. ■

For more information about IMI’s Training Programs contact them at 800.562.7464 or via e-mail kfotheringham@imiweb.org.

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Adam Hogan is Latest Lenchuk Scholarship Recipient

The NCMA Education and Research Foundation Board of Trustees in their annual meeting in Atlanta this past February voted to award Adam Hogan (no relation to NCMA President Mark Hogan) of Clemson University a Lenchuk Scholarship for the spring and fall semesters of 2004. The scholarship is to support research studying the "Verification of Software for the Structural Design of Concrete Masonry".

Hogan is an outstanding student, having earned a perfect 4.0 grade point average for his entire undergraduate and graduate tenure at Clemson University. He is an excellent choice to continue the long tradition of employing the services of Clemson's brightest graduate students for NCMA's masonry wall software program through the Lenchuk Scholarship. In this capacity, Hogan will develop an independent parallel MATHCAD program to verify that the significant upgrades to NCMA's Masonry Wall Design software, are working correctly. This software makes short work of the complicated analysis procedures required for concrete masonry. Current versions have been distributed to thousands of design professionals, largely through seminars conducted by Dr. Russell Brown, one of the principal authors of the software and a professor at Clemson University. Seminar attendees have provided rave reviews of the software and the seminars.

Through the funding provided by the NCMA Foundation, not only is this very valuable software made possible, but some of the country's brightest young engineering talent is receiving a very thorough education in concrete

masonry design, developing skills that will benefit them and the concrete masonry industry for years to come. The industry is truly grateful to the

generous and forward thinking contributors to the NCMA Education and Research Foundation for making efforts such as this possible. ■



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FOUNDATION NEWS

Foundation of the Future Campaign Gains Sustainer-Level Contributors

Three industry representatives have stepped forward with generous contributions to the “Foundation of the Future” campaign. The campaign, operated by the NCMA Education and Research Foundation, offers individuals the opportunity to make personal contributions beyond those of their respective companies to benefit the concrete masonry industry.

In addition to their respective companies — Sylvester Schmidt of RMC Industries Corporation has joined Jeremy P.M. Gray of W.R. Grace & Company and Lawrence Dagostino, Sr. of Dagostino Building Blocks, Inc. in making a personal Sustainer-level investment of \$1,000 in the Foundation’s “Foundation For The Future” campaign.

In making his donation, Schmidt emphasized his appreciation to the industry for providing a means for both individuals as well as companies to “give something back to an industry that has been so generous in benefiting employees and their families.”

Schmidt went on to say, “Much of what my family and I have is a direct result of the concrete masonry and landscape products industry. Many of us have been able to provide for our families, buy our homes and send our children to college because of this industry. I am extremely pleased that the NCMA Foundation has found a way for us to not only say thank-you and give something back, but that we also have the opportunity to leave a legacy for those who will follow.”

Challenging others to follow, Schmidt added, “I am pleased to be able to make this initial contribution and look forward to increasing it. I want to challenge others in our industry to join me at the Sustainer-level or higher with a personal tax-exempt donation of \$1,000.”

The NCMA Education and Research Foundation is the concrete masonry industry’s foundation serving as a research and education affiliate of the National Concrete Masonry Association. The mission of the foundation is to advance and support the concrete masonry industry and the public interest. This is accomplished through research and education programs designed to meet the future needs of the industry; by supporting programs to ensure an adequate supply of qualified masons for the future growth of the concrete masonry industry; industry research and technical studies for codes and standards; and education of architectural and engineering students through concrete masonry curriculum development. ■

To learn more about the foundation and how you can make a personal contribution, contact NCMA Education & Research Foundation, 13750 Sunrise Valley Drive, Herndon, VA 20171. Toll free calls may be made to 877.343.6268. Fax inquiries should be sent to 703.713.1910 fax. E-mail inquiries should be addressed to foundation@ncma.org.



Frequently Asked Questions About The Foundation...

The NCMA Education & Research Foundation is your industry's foundation and serves as the research and education affiliate of the National Concrete Masonry Association. The mission of the NCMA Foundation is to advance and support the concrete masonry industry and the public interest through research and education programs designed to meet the future needs of the industry.

What is the focus of the Foundation?

Interviews with NCMA members provided strategic input on specific programs, markets, and audiences most affecting the future of the concrete masonry industry. From this information the Foundation formulated three areas of focus: Workforce Development; Codes and Standards Research; and Architectural and Engineering Student Curriculum. Programs within one or more of the initiatives may be candidates for funding consideration.

How is the Foundation governed?

The Foundation is governed by a rotating Board of Trustees, currently comprised of eleven elected trustees serving voluntarily and without compensation and the NCMA president. In addition to the Board of Trustees, the Foundation has three committees - the National Endowment Council; the Program Review Committee; and the Investment/Finance Committee.

Are contributions tax deductible?

Yes. The NCMA Foundation is incorporated under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as a non-profit, tax-exempt, education/research foundation. Financial investments and contributions from individuals and companies are tax-deductible.

What is the amount raised?

To date, 69 companies and individuals have pledged over \$6 million towards the current Phase IV goal of \$7 million.

Why give to the Foundation?

The Foundation's programs will help secure the future health and stability of our industry. Through the endowment, donated monies will remain intact with only the interest from the corpus used to fund programs, thus providing a regular, ongoing source of funding for the Foundation. The many obstacles and issues facing our industry now and in the future can be addressed by a financially sound foundation with benefits both for today and for generations to follow. Supporting your industry's foundation is a way to give something back to the industry from which you and your family have benefited.

Do pledges have to be paid all at once?

No. Pledge payments can be made to the Foundation over a five-year period payable on an annual, semi-annual or quarterly basis. Arrangements specific to your pledge are made confidentially with the Executive Administrator of the Foundation.

When can I expect to see programs being funded?

Programs are already being funded. To date, six grants have been made - two in the area of workforce development and four in the area of research. More grants are currently under consideration. Contributions made to the Foundation are inviolate. Programs will be funded from the interest earned on the invested principal. Therefore, in order to fund programs, the Foundation must first raise money. National Endowment Council members have devoted their time to this end. The timing of the program funding depends largely on the speed of securing pledges along with the payment on pledges once secured.

How can I get further information on the Foundation?

To learn more about the Foundation and how you can become involved and support your industry, contact: the Foundation Executive Administrator at 703.713.1900 or e-mail foundation@ncma.org.

NCMA Estimates Will Take Installer Certification Exam

NCMA estimates that 500 installers will have elected to sit for the NCMA SRW installer certificate exam by April 2004. This exam is being offered at numerous training programs conducted by NCMA members. What are the three major concepts that SRW installers should walk away with from any training program? The answer is soil identification, compaction and water management.

By understanding the type of soil available for construction, the installer is capable of selecting the proper equipment and construction practices. He is prepared to undertake the necessary measures to properly compact the soil and ensure the in-situ conditions comply with the design requirements. The installer is also capable of identifying sources of water and seeking guidance from the engineer for proper methods of water management and control. All this adds up to success for the installers and SRW industry.

Installers are finding that NCMA members are more than willing to provide this education. The exam measures each installers' understanding of basic SRW performance and minimum installation requirements. These two principles are consistent for all SRW systems available to the installer; how-

ever, installers are encouraged to work with their local producer and system supplier for specific installation details such as stairway and 90-degree corner construction.


Installers response to the NCMA SRW Installer Certificate program has been strong. Consider the response from attendees at the recent installer program at the 2004 MCPX in Atlanta, Georgia on February 7. Attendee response was overwhelmingly positive. Many attendees indicated that expanding the program will provide greater understanding of the SRW industry, and they suggested covering such topics as specification and contract requirements, and hands-on construction.

Chris Masterson with E.C.M. Modular Wall Inc., in Atlanta, Georgia, summarized the 2004 MCPX installer program by simply stating, "Thanks for a GREAT course!" Installers are finding a renewed interest in education and a desire to set the bar above their competition. Education will provide the next rung in the ladder of SRW success. ■

For more information on scheduling an installer training or certification program in your area, contact Lance Carter at NCMA, 703.713.1908 x221 or lcarter@ncma.org.

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 NATIONAL CONCRETE MASONRY ASSOCIATION
RESEARCH • DEVELOPMENT • EDUCATION

Use of On-Site Materials is Win-Win for Taxpayers and SRW Producers

Advances in transportation research focused on retaining wall systems should open doors for the segmental retaining wall (SRW) industry. Research funded through National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP), NCHRP Project 24-22; Selecting Backfill Materials for MSE



ICD Corporation

Retaining Walls, is to develop selection guidelines, soil parameters, test methods, and construction specifications that will allow the use of a wider range

of backfill materials within the reinforced zone of mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) retaining walls, for which SRWs are a subset of MSE structures. Research success will permit greater utilization of on-site materials for backfill in place of A-1-a materials (A-1-a refers to the letter designation used by many highway departments for select backfill, in many cases an imported or borrow material) currently required by most state highway transportation department specifications. With a 48-month timeline and \$600,000 investment, the research will involve the construction and instrumentation of a full-scale wall MSE retaining wall using various backfill materials and structural components.

NCMA and its members are providing important information regarding current SRW construction practices by participating in an industry survey from the NCHRP research team. Information provided to the researchers includes descriptions of allowable backfill materials, construction specifications, water management guidelines, and performance documentation for SRWs. Lance Carter, NCMA engineered landscape products manager, explains, "The SRW industry has known for along time that the use of on-site soils provides a large competitive advantage over competing systems. More importantly, it provides a significant cost savings

to the owner when considering the use of on-site materials versus off-site, import (select) materials." Carter adds, "The decision by the highway transportation industry to investigate the use of on-site materials for their construction needs is a win-win situation for both the taxpayer and SRW industry. Ever tightening transportation budgets require better utilization of resources and dollars and demand the consideration of established construction practices. Furthermore, acknowledgment of the use of on-site materials by transportation departments will undoubtedly provide greater opportunity for acceptance of those systems that have a strong history in their application of on-site soils."

This project and other NCHRP projects often stem from industry events such as 84th Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) held in Washington, D.C., in January 2004. This conference attracted nearly 9,000 representatives from university, public government, commercial industry and state highway transportation officials. Over a five-day period, approximately 1,500 papers on everything from transportation management to elastic modulus determination of construction materials were presented to this broad spectrum of transportation representatives.

With a continually growing market for segmental retaining wall, articulated concrete block and interlocking concrete pavement systems, the SRW industry should expect greater recognition in a market sector with untapped resources. ■



Keystone Retaining Walls



Soil Retention Systems

ACB Design Manual to Set Standard of Practice

The NCMA ACB Design Manual Task Group is actively developing a guideline that will standardize structural design practices. The NCMA document, Design Guidelines for Articulating Concrete Block Revetments, stems from a Harris County (Texas) Flood Control District design manual for articulating concrete block systems prepared by Ayres Associates. Richard Bodie, task group chairman and national commercial sales manager for Pavestone Company, points out, "The ACB industry at large is continually growing in size and scope every year. In keeping with that growth and to support the engineering design community, the NCMA has elected to take the current industry design practice and provide a consensus document for technical reference. By estab-

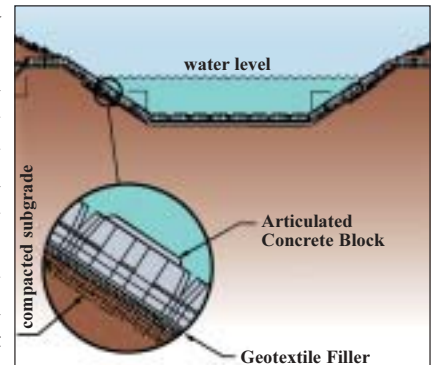
lishing an industry standard document, the ACB Design Manual will standardize the design methodology and create a even platform for the competitive bid process."

Upon its anticipated completion in 2005, this document will serve as a standard of practice for revetment design and draws from the technical support of NCMA members active in revetment applications, including representatives from Armortec, Petraflex, Soil Retention Systems and HydroPave/Pavestone Company.

Articulating concrete block revetments, or ACBs, are becoming commonplace within the erosion control industry. ACBs are exactly what their name claims. An ACB system is comprised of a matrix of individual concrete blocks placed together to form an erosion-resistant revetment with specific hydraulic performance characteristics. Simply stated, ACB revetments provide a hard-armor system that protects shorelines, streambeds, channels and spillways.

ACB revetments are proprietary systems with specific performance capabilities and design limitations. Each block system is evaluated in full-scale flume testing, where performance is limited by hydraulic stability. The systems come in various sizes, ranging in thickness of four inches to greater than ten inches.

Over the past 15 years or more, the U.S. design community has generally relied on two technical reports published by the Federal Highway Administration as the basis for hydraulic performance testing and structural analysis. For reference, the reports are Technical Report FHWA RD-88 181; Minimizing Embankment Damage during Overtopping Flow, and Technical Report FHWA RD-89 199; Hydraulic Stability of Articulated Concrete Block Revetment Systems during Overtopping Flow. Design professionals and proprietary system suppliers in developing design guidance for the engineering community have used these reports as the basis for establishing hydraulic performance limits. ■



Detail of an articulated concrete block revetment



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AUGUST 4-8, 2004 ■ HYATT REGENCY CHESAPEAKE BAY RESORT & MARINA ■ CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND



NCMA Midyear Meeting

NCMA's Midyear Meeting offers NCMA Members the opportunity to:

- Set the direction for industry programs
- Attend member briefings on current industry issues and trends
- Join members at the PAC and other receptions
- Network with industry peers
- Participate in the Paul and Helen Lenchuk Scholarship Fund Golf or Tennis Tournament

Where the movers and shakers of the concrete masonry industry make decisions.



“Game of Masonry” Used as Learning Technique

- If you have a single-story building 20-feet by 40-feet, what is the square footage?
- True or False: one in seven masons will one day own their own masonry contracting business?

Cabinetmaker and Mason, too.

His instructor tells it best. “Josh started in our vocational program as a freshman. His first interest in our building trades class was cabinetmaking. He placed third in the State of Iowa SkillsUSA competition that year. The following summer he found a job with a local masonry company, and he’s concentrated in that trade since.”

Darin Steva instructed Josh Knudtson at Perry High School in Perry, Iowa. “Can you believe it?” Steva asks. “This young man did so well in cabinetmaking, then turned around and did even better in masonry.”

Knudtson represented the state of Iowa in the national masonry contest held this past summer in Kansas City, Mo. in conjunction with the SkillsUSA – VICA National Leadership and Skills Conference. He competed in the secondary division.

Returning to high school, Knudtson added to his academic and masonry efforts by participating in football, soccer and track. He was on the school bowling team, and he was a very active member of the Technical Student Association. Knudtson started out as a local officer his freshman year. By the end of his freshman year, Knudtson had been elected Iowa State Treasurer. Simultaneously participating in SkillsUSA, this past fall, Knudtson was elected Secretary of the Iowa State Association.

Although Knudtson’s father owns a residential construction business, he gives credit to his instructor. “Mr. Steva taught me everything I know about masonry,” Knudtson said.

Knudtson graduated in February and is currently employed by Burkett Masonry, earning money to continue his education. He is considering a number of community colleges in Iowa.

The SkillsUSA program in high schools today work. This is the “grassroots” of continual replenishment of young masons to our industry. Get involved in your local schools and support the advancement of masonry training. ■

These are just two questions in the Jeopardy-type “Game of Masonry” developed by the Pennsylvania Concrete Masonry Association’s (PCMA) Workforce Development Committee, chaired by Kurt Rosander. There is even a final masonry question – “What are the seven parts of a trowel?”

Rosander, a masonry specialist with Cemex, Inc., uses this game when visiting vo-tech masonry classes. “We make a presentation to students in vo-tech school programs to reinforce what the students have heard and learned from their instructors. Our participation in the program allows the students to hear firsthand experience about opportunities in the world of masonry,” adds Rosander.

There are more than 40 vo-tech schools in Pennsylvania that currently have masonry-only programs. Most programs are a three-year commitment, where the student decides a specific trade in the second year. Members from PCMA’s committee visit these schools to allow the students to ask questions and promote the masonry trade. Rosander estimates that the average masonry class size for each school is between 15 – 40 students. However, not all these students may enter the masonry field, which is why Rosander believes his presentation is so important. “The students remember the facts of my presentation in order to compete in the masonry game. I select three students after my presentation and they play the game. Even the students that are not actually playing get excited when they know the answers to the questions. It keeps everyone involved and learning. The contestant with the most points at the end of the game receives a trowel or other piece of equipment.”

Upon completion of the vo-tech program and graduation from high school, most of these students start in the field as laborers for non-union companies. With experience, the students increase responsibilities to staging materials and assisting the masons on the project. As the company becomes comfortable with the new employee, it will allow them to start laying block and perfecting their skills on actual buildings.

Students who show considerable skill upon graduation from the vo-tech program are often accepted as an apprentice with the International Masonry Institute (IMI). During this three-month training program, the apprentice learns advanced masonry skills. Once the skills are mastered the apprentice is released into the workforce. ■

For more information about this program, contact Jan Boyer, executive director, Pennsylvania Concrete Masonry Association at 717.279.6346 or jlboyer@nbn.net.

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OMB Initiates Review of Manufacturing Regulations

Following an in-depth study of the economic impact of regulations that found that small and medium-sized manufacturing firms bear the heaviest regulatory burden, the Office of Management and Budget has announced an initiative to solicit public nomination of manufacturing regulations in need of modernization to reduce costs, increase effectiveness, and enhance the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers. The initiative is included in OMB's draft 2004 Report to Congress on the Costs and Benefits of Regulation, which is required by the Regulatory Right to Know Act of 2000.

"A key component of President Bush's six-point plan for economic growth is easing the regulatory burden," said Joshua Bolten, Director of the Office of Management and Budget. "No sector of our economy is more in need of regulatory reform than manufacturing."

OMB's review of the economic literature on regulations found that the cumulative costs on the manufacturing sector are larger than the costs imposed on other sectors of the economy — and disproportionately large for small and medium-sized manufacturers.

Manufacturing is a vital sector of the US economy, accounting for 14 percent of U.S. Gross Domestic Product.

The President's Council of Economic Advisors recently reported that, while manufacturing is beginning to share in the economic recovery, the rebound in manufacturing

employment has not been as rapid as in other sectors. A recent Commerce Department report included a broad-based review of manufacturing policy and recommended that federal regulations be re-examined for reform.

The OMB request is for nominations of regulatory reforms that can be implemented through administrative action. Comments will be shared with relevant federal agencies for evaluation. Final reform initiatives will be outlined in OMB's Final Report, to be published later this year after public comment, expert peer review, and formal interagency review.

"The U.S. manufacturing industry is hindered by regulations that often don't account for improvements in science and technology over the last twenty years," said Dr. John D. Graham, Director of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at OMB. "This review will help us identify and improve dated regulations so American manufacturing firms can create jobs and continue to play a vital role in our economy." ■

The draft 2004 Report to Congress on the Costs and Benefits of Regulation is available at
http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg/regpol-reports_congress.html.



Are you Building a School or a Liability?
A Guide to Using Total Masonry Construction in Public Schools

This book, produced by the Texas Masonry Council (TMC) and co-authored by Kyle Montgomery, TMC's executive director, covers these topics:

- *Mold prevention and safety*
- *Initial and life cycle costing*
 - *Speed of construction*
 - *Total lasting performance*
- *System overview and basic details*
- *Comparison with tilt-up*

Member/Professional/Retail Price: \$19.95
Call 703.713.1908 x227 and order publication number TR214

Testimony Provided on Pivotal Wind Hazards Research Bill

The U.S. House Committee on Science has scheduled a hearing on a bill that could have an important impact on future construction policy relating to wind hazards. The Committee plans to hold the hearing on HR2020, the Hurricane, Tornado, and Related Hazards Research Act, in late March. NCMA has discussed the bill with Science Committee staff and its Chairman, Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY), a Member of Congress of long and friendly acquaintance with NCMA.

As a leading authority on wind impacts on construction, NCMA will submit testimony regarding its views on how the legislation should be shaped to maximize its benefits to the construction industry and the safety of all Americans.

"Federal policy-makers need a faster, better and more systematic means for documenting the effects of catastrophic wind events on construction durability and safety," said Randall Pence of Capitol Hill Advocates, Inc., NCMA's lobbyist on Capitol Hill. "HR2020 will help fill that void."

"Further, we feel confident that the work to be conducted under the bill will identify and underscore the strong capability of concrete masonry buildings to withstand wind forces that typically devastate structures made from less wind-resistant materials," he added.

The bill follows a developing pattern, focusing federal research assets on major catastrophic events in which the quality of construction is put to the ultimate test. Quoting from the bill digest, HR2020 would require --

-- the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to establish an Interagency Group to be responsible for the development and implementation of a coordinated Federal windstorm and related hazards reduction research, development, and technology transfer program (the Windstorm and Related Hazard Impact Reduction Program) based on identified public needs to achieve major measurable reductions in losses within ten years.

-- that such program feature: (1) pertinent basic and applied research that takes into account locality-specific weather, susceptibility to natural hazards, design and construction practices, and performance of the built environ-

ment during windstorms and related hazards; (2) systematic collection of data for buildings and other structures for use in developing and deploying mitigation measures; (3) an ongoing program of information dissemination on cost-effective and affordable hazard reduction research results and hazard-resistant building construction techniques to industry, State and local governments, and the general public; and (4) improved technology for loss estimation, risk assessment, hazard identification, prediction, warnings, advanced planning, and disaster response.

-- that the Interagency Group to develop and submit to Congress a ten-year implementation plan.

-- a National Advisory Committee to review progress made under the Program to advise on any improvements, and report to Congress on actions that have been taken to advance the Nation's capability to reduce windstorm and related hazard impacts.

The future for HR2020 after the House hearing remains unclear, but Chairman Boehlert affirmed to Pence that he would like to move the bill this year. Boehlert cautioned that this might be a daunting challenge because the Committee is also heavily scheduled with President Bush's ambitious new space agenda. Pence offered that NCMA supports HR2020. Conversely, NCMA takes no position on the space initiative.

■

Faull Named to NAHB Post

Dawn Faull, formerly with the Arizona Masonry Council, was named manager of the National Association of Home Builders' (NAHB) newly formed Concrete Home Building Council. Faull previously served as marketing director for the Arizona Masonry Guild. Faull will handle the day-to-day operations of the Council and will develop programs, membership initiatives and other events. NAHB approved formation of the Concrete Home Building Council effective January 1. The Council will provide NAHB membership access to technical, educational and training experts on concrete building systems and concrete product applications. The Council falls under NAHB's Building Systems Council.

■

Safety Focus Includes Slips, Trips and Falls

Falls account for 15 percent of workplace injuries. Falls begin with a slip, trip, stumble or other event. Many injuries such as a sprain or strain may occur even if the employee doesn't actually fall to the ground. Understanding what occurs when a simple step is taken and what can go wrong is essential to taking action to prevent falls.

When a step is taken, a number of problems can occur. In about 50 percent of the cases, a slip led to an injury. Trips account for 14 percent, missteps 10 percent, loss of support 7 percent and overreaching 4 percent. Various other events such as a stumble account for 1 percent or less of the events that led to an injury.

Slips occur when the ratio between the horizontal and vertical forces decreases. In contrast a stumble, is when the friction increases and the foot is caught. Trips or missteps occur when the foot is placed improperly in relation to the surface. Loss of support relates to the ability of the surface to bear the load of the employee. Postural overexertion is as stated. The individual fell due to reaching or positioning their body to a point at which they fell.

Different factors affect each event. Slip and stumble potential is linked to the type and condition of the walking surface, footwear, and stride. Slips usually occur on wet, icy, oily or muddy surfaces. Only 5 percent of slips occur on dry surfaces. Footwear that fits properly and has soles made of a rubber-like material reduces the potential for slipping. Relative to the stride, short steps as opposed to large steps can reduce slippage. Trips and missteps are related to the inability to judge foot placement. Poor lighting or bad housekeeping can make it difficult to determine how high to lift one's foot or where to place the next step.

However, no single factor is associated with one event. Furthermore, it is usually multiple factors that result in a fall. For example, an individual wearing rubber-soled footwear in a well-lit ice rink could safely navigate across the surface by taking small steps. The same individual encountering an isolated icy patch while walking in the dark would be hard pressed not to fall. Therefore, the best approach to preventing a fall is to address activities and conditions.

Entrances and exits are areas where multiple factors come into play. The area often becomes wet from traffic coming indoors. Employees need to push or pull on the door and may sidestep to make way for other entrants. The lighting may be poor. If possible, improve the lighting. Use mats to absorb moisture and increase clean up frequency as needed during bad weather. Use caution signs to increase awareness of changing surface conditions.

Loading docks are another area where conditions change. Employees must exert pushing and pulling forces when loading or unloading vehicles. The surface becomes slippery when it rains or oil from vehicles is not cleaned up. The area must be maintained and a secure footing established when moving materials.

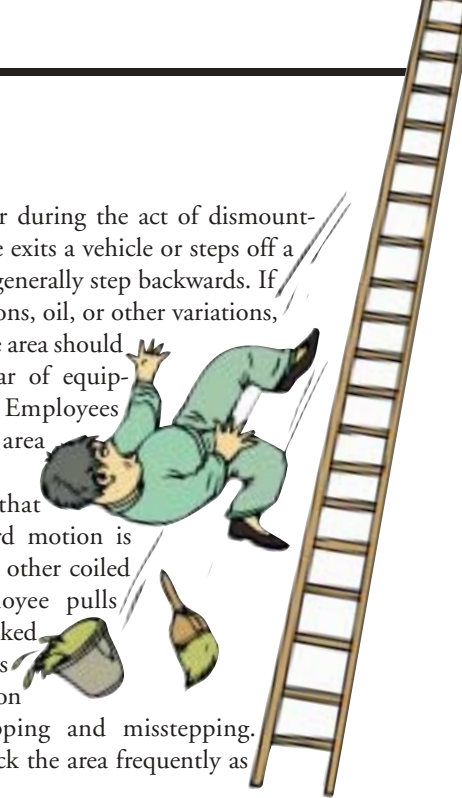
Many injuries occur during the act of dismounting. When an employee exits a vehicle or steps off a ladder or scaffold they generally step backwards. If the surface has depressions, oil, or other variations, it is easy to misstep. The area should be kept clean and clear of equipment and materials. Employees need to check the area before dismounting.

Another activity that often involves backward motion is handling wire, hoses or other coiled objects. As the employee pulls backward, the unchecked surface and added forces from the pulling action lead to potential tripping and misstepping. Employees need to check the area frequently as they move.

Other common problem areas and activities include carrying heavy or bulky objects, unexpected work surface hazards, insufficient work spaces and actions which extend one's reach without addressing safety. The force needed to carry objects may alter the stride and directional forces affecting the friction between the foot and surface. Carrying an object that blocks one's view increases the potential of misstepping and should be prohibited. Unfamiliar working surfaces like those found on a construction site present an obstacle course. Workers should become familiar with the terrain. Overreaching or setting up makeshift platforms to extend beyond a base support should be prohibited.

From a regulatory perspective, there are several Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards on fall prevention. They range from Stairways and Ladders and Scaffolding targeting falls from elevations to the basic Walking and Working Surfaces standard. Each should be consulted for specific requirements. However, many of the basic actions required are common sense precautions. Selection of the proper footwear and good housekeeping are essential. Observing load limits and providing railings are helpful. But, the greatest control is training. Employees must be taught that falls are avoidable. Increasing their awareness of conditions and making sure they take simple precautions can do much to preventing a slip, trip, or fall accident. ■

For additional help with this topic, take advantage of the Block Plant Safety Software. The software is available from NCMA at 703.713.1900 at a cost of \$450 (nonmember \$900). The software has an accompanying Web site at www.esafetyline.com/ncma. This site is free for one year to software users. Subscriptions to the site for all individuals who have not purchased the software are available for \$79/year.



Start Planning Now for Fall Education

CONCRETE MASONRY TESTING PROCEDURES CERTIFICATION COURSE OCTOBER 7-9

Correct and uniform testing procedures in laboratories throughout the country to help ensure that masonry products are fairly and accurately evaluated to determine their compliance with industry standards is what is taught in this course. The school is particularly valuable to laboratory managers and supervisors; lab technicians; plant quality control supervisors; masonry technical service representatives; construction specifiers; and masonry sales personnel. Hands-on laboratory sessions complement classroom instruction covering testing standards for concrete masonry products (including concrete masonry units, pavers, and retaining wall units), masonry mortar, grout, and prisms. Students who successfully complete a written and performance examination earn the title of Concrete Masonry Testing Technician.

NCMA/CSI TECHNICAL SALES TRAINING COURSE-PHASE II OCTOBER 17-22

NCMA and the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) developed this program to train sales personnel on the basic technical aspects of designing and building with concrete masonry. This training helps position sales representatives as valuable resources for designers using concrete masonry. Phase II includes the CSI Construction Documents Technologist (CDT) exam and provides a more thorough understanding of the engineering aspects of concrete masonry.

HOT TOPICS & ADVANCEMENTS IN CONCRETE MASONRY WORKSHOP (NCMA/CSI POST GRAD SCHOOL) • NOVEMBER 3 - 4

This one and a half day workshop is designed to advance understanding of concrete masonry and serve as a forum for the presentation of hot topics affecting the masonry industry. The program includes discussions on competitive systems (AAC, pre-cast, ICF), new technology and innovative construction (self-consolidating grout, mortarless wall systems), and industry updates on issues affecting product specification (MSJC code changes, SRW freeze-thaw durability). Sustainable design issues and utilizing concrete masonry within the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) credit system will also be discussed. The workshop is open to all NCMA members and satisfies the continuing education requirements for those recognized by NCMA as Certified Consultants of Concrete Masonry (C3M).

BLOCK AND LANDSCAPE PRODUCTS SALES SCHOOL • NOVEMBER 14-17

Entry-level sales professionals are provided with an overview of all concrete masonry systems in this course. In addition to product training, participants learn from experts in the building industry who supply information about market trends and selling to designers, contractors, and landscape architects. During the four-day school, participants gain a solid foundation for selling with confidence and dealing effectively with customers. The course is open to new personnel responsible for selling concrete masonry systems; seasoned sales personnel in need of additional training, or "refresher" tips; and other staff responsible for customer service functions.

CUSTOMER SERVICE SCHOOL • DECEMBER 8-10

Service and operations are the key link between customers and product delivery. This three-day program focuses on improving customer, driver, and in-plant communications. It also deals with the primary functions of dispatching, such as stress management, handling and dispatching orders, getting all necessary information, truck and driver scheduling, selling bag goods and accessories, and inventory management. Additionally, attendees share methods they have found effective to improve or facilitate various situations. The Customer Service course benefits anyone in or training for a dispatching position. Supervisors and managers overseeing the operations of concrete masonry manufacturing facilities will also benefit from this course.



Richmond Blaze Calls Building Codes Into Question

A March 26 blaze that destroyed a four-story Richmond, Va. building that was to be leased to Virginia Commonwealth University for student housing has called into question building codes that have allowed an over-reliance on wood framing and insufficient attention to the use of firewalls in construction. The blaze not only destroyed the building, but rapidly spread to nearly 30 other buildings in the area, either destroying or severely damaging most of the adjacent structures.

Robert Thomas, Vice President of Engineering at the National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA) commented, "Although the building that burned was incomplete, this fire highlights the vulnerability of this method of construction. With a sprinkler system that is not yet in place, the wood frame was essentially kindling and burned readily. Other types of noncombustible construction using concrete and masonry not only complement sprinklers to provide better protection after the structure is complete, they also provide much better protection when the building is under construction. Sprinklers are critical systems for fire protection, but they do not protect buildings under construction, nor do they come with a guarantee to function properly in the event of a tragic fire after construction is complete."

"Some people might think this construction would have been safe once the building was completed and that wood framing is no more dangerous than masonry or steel," said Jim Messersmith, regional codes manager from the Portland Cement Association (PCA). He added "That kind of thinking is not only wrong, it is also ironic considering all that is left of the four stories are two masonry stair towers and a masonry elevator shaft. In addition, the first level of the building, which was to be used for retail space, sustained virtually no damage due to the fire resistance of the second floor concrete slab."

A little over 2 months earlier, on January 7, 2004, another Richmond fire caused severe damage to a three-story wood frame apartment building for senior citizens. While no one was injured in that fire, approximately 80 seniors were displaced and many lost all their possessions.

"A better approach is for building code officials to insist on balanced design that includes both noncombustible building materials and sprinklers," continued Messersmith. "If these buildings had incorporated noncombustible concrete floors and roof, and masonry walls to provide barriers to prevent fire spread, the fires would have been confined to the area of origin. Communities simply cannot afford this avoidable type of damage."

"Unfortunately the construction practices used for these student apartments in Richmond have become common

practice for both student and senior citizen housing across the United States," adds Messersmith. "The safety of our children and the elderly must not be comprised for any reason."

In Virginia, Messersmith and members of the Virginia Masonry Association (VMA) are recommending that the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code be amended to require Type I or Type II noncombustible construction for structures designed for student housing and senior citizens.

■



In Memorium...

William A. Grindle

William A. Grindle passed away in March. He was the founder of BLOCKLITE in 1946 in Selma, California. From the outset, Grindle supported the concrete masonry industry on both a state and a national level with his time, expertise and financial support. Grindle joined NCMA in 1945, before BLOCKLITE was established, and since then he chaired and served on many committees throughout his career. In addition, Grindle donated materials and funds for the NCMA headquarters building. As a result of his many accomplishments he was recognized for his industry contributions by being named an Honorary Member of NCMA upon his retirement in 1996.

Survivors include his widow, Mary Jo; children: Shirley Martin and her husband Tim, Ben Fry and his fiancée Betty, Melanie Sarkisian and her husband Rick; grandchildren: Danielle, Jennifer, Chelsea, Cory, Brian, Craig, Marc and Melissa; and seven great grandchildren. ■

David Crancer

David Crancer from Alabama Pallets passed away in December 2003 at the age of 69 due to complications from diabetes. Crancer's father was the founder of Valley Steel Products in St. Louis, Missouri. During his employment at Valley Steel, Crancer was co-founder of a specialized product called Steel Pallets. While employed at Valley Steel he was the production and sales manager of the steel pallets division for twenty-seven years.

Survivors include by four sons; Mike Crancer, David Crancer Jr., Jeff Crancer, Joe Crancer; one daughter, Holly Crancer; and eight grandchildren. ■

Upcoming Events Calendar

May

- 3-4 NCMA Concrete Masonry Testing Procedures Certification Course
Concrete Masonry Association of California and Nevada
Los Angeles, Calif./Smith-Emery Labs
- 6-7 NCMA Concrete Masonry Testing Procedures Certification Course
Concrete Masonry Association of California and Nevada
San Diego, Calif.
- 11 How to Design Masonry Structures Seminar
The Masonry Society
Kansas City, Mo./Hyatt Regency Crown Center
- 11-13 Spring Business Meeting
The Masonry Society
Kansas City, Mo./Hyatt Regency Crown Center
- 12 Post Tensioning Masonry Seminar
Masonry Institute of St. Louis
St. Louis, Mo./The Masonry Centre
- 13 Quality Assurance Seminar
The Masonry Society
Kansas City, Mo./Hyatt Regency Crown Center
- 13 NCMA Spring Executive Committee Meeting
Lake Tahoe, Nev./Harveys Resort & Casino
- 13 - 15 Masonry Standards Joint Committee Meetings
Kansas City, Mo.
- 14 NCMA Long Range Planning Committee Meeting
Lake Tahoe, Nev./Harveys Resort & Casino
- 20 Reinforcing Walls and Grouting Hollow Unit Masonry Workshop
Masonry Institute of Michigan
Livonia, Mich.

June

- 2 - 3 Concrete And Masonry Related Associations Meeting
Lansdowne, Va./Lansdowne Convention Center
- 10 - 12 2004 National Convention & Design Expo
American Institute of Architects
Chicago, Ill/McCormick Place.
- 13 - 16 ASTM Committee Meetings
C 09 – Concrete and Concrete Aggregates
E 05 – Fire Standards
Kansas City, Mo./Hyatt Regency Crown Center,
- 15 - 16 ASTM Committee C 12 – Mortars and Grouts for Unit Masonry
Kansas City, Mo./Hyatt Regency Crown Center,
- 15 - 18 ASTM Committee Meetings
C 15 – Manufactured Masonry Units
D 35 - Geosynthetics
Kansas City, Mo./Hyatt Regency Crown Center,
- 16 - 17 ASTM Committee C 07 - Lime
Kansas City, Mo./Hyatt Regency Crown Center,
- 16 - 18 ASTM Committee C 01 - Cement
Kansas City, Mo./Hyatt Regency Crown Center
- 22-25 National Conference - SkillsUSA Vocational Industrial Clubs of *America*
Kansas City, Mo./Bartle Hall Convention Center

- 23 Masonry Technical Committee Meeting
SkillsUSA/Vocational Industrial Clubs of America
Kansas City, Mo./Marriott Downtown
- 24 - 25 48th Masonry Certification Seminar
Masonry Institute of Michigan
Lansing, Mich.

July

- 1-2 48th Masonry Certification Seminar
Masonry Institute of Michigan
Traverse City, Mich./Waterfront Inn Resort
- 4-7 13th International Brick/Block Masonry Conference
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 8 Flashing Masonry Workshop
Masonry Institute of Michigan
Grand Rapids, Mich./Tassell M-TEC
- 8-11 Summer Meeting
Carolinas Concrete Masonry Association
Kiawah, S.C./Kiawah Island Resort
- 13-16 7th Australasian Masonry Conference
University of Newcastle
Callaghan, Australia/University of Newcastle
- 14 Board of Directors Meeting
Masonry Institute of Tennessee
Nashville, Tenn./Masonry Institute of Tennessee Office
- 15-16 M6 Meeting – Mold, Moisture, Misery, Money, Myth, Management
Building Environmental and Thermal Envelope Council
Chicago, Ill./Omni Hotel
- 20-21 Masonry Alliance for Codes and Standards Meeting
Wisconsin
- 29-30 49th Masonry Certification Seminar
Masonry Institute of Michigan
Saginaw, Mich./Four Points Hotel

TEK 1-4, Glossary of Concrete Masonry Terms

Have you wondered exactly what is meant by some of the concrete masonry terms used in technical publications and codes or have looked for the proper term to describe something pertaining to concrete masonry? Well the answer is now here. NCMA's new TEK 1-4; Glossary of Concrete Masonry Terms, is a compilation of terms used within NCMA's technical publications, Masonry Standards Joint Committee and ASTM International.

This TEK is appropriate for distribution to everyone dealing with concrete masonry: engineers, architects, contractors, inspectors, building officials, homebuilders, producers and suppliers. To order copies of the publication, call NCMA at 703.713.1900.

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