

For the concrete masonry and hardscape industry

CM NEWS

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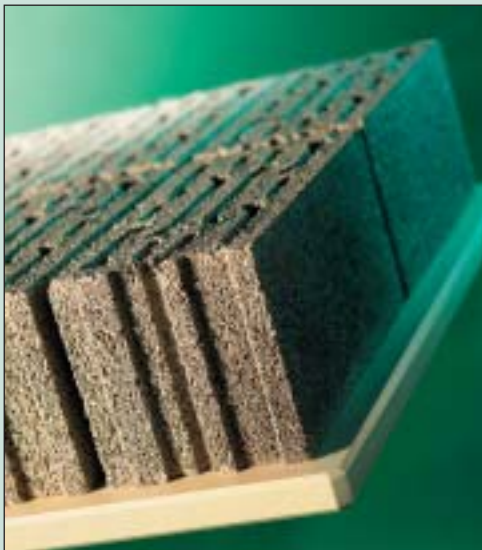


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Completed in 2004, Peters Township Community Recreation Center in Venetia, Pennsylvania, 15 miles south of Pittsburgh, features horizontal bands of alternating split-face and smooth concrete masonry on the exterior. The textures and colors of these walls create an organic appearance that easily harmonizes with the center's park-like setting. A joint venture between the community and the state, the 38,000-square-foot, two-story structure has a youth room, concessions kitchen, indoor track, and an exercise studio, as well as a conference room, large multipurpose room, and administrative offices. The facility is free to all area residents.



September 2007

This month is a double issue, featuring government affairs at NCMA and July's Midyear Meeting Recap. Plus, there are lots of photos of the annual SkillsUSA competition, including instructors, judges, and—of course—winners. This year's event, in Kansas City, Missouri, had the highest turnout yet, with more than 15,000 attending the awards ceremony.

Forward all comments and suggestions to CM News editor Michele Bupp at 703-713-1900 or mbupp@ncma.org.



Sustainable Concrete Products for Structures and Hardscapes

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President's Message

NCMA continues to respond to changes occurring in the industry, and this response requires continued commitment to core programs, such as government affairs, codes and standards development, research, and technical service, as well as a renewed emphasis on certification, education, and sales and marketing.

by Mark Hogan, President of NCMA

Industry tackles challenges

Responding to the changing needs of NCMA members brings its own set of challenges to the association. For example, traditional military construction markets for concrete masonry have been threatened by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' change in direction, which has caused NCMA to refocus its Government Affairs Program on federal agencies. Research-driven advances in concrete masonry technology have resulted in a demand for building code revision. Masonry designers, researchers, and NCMA staff have responded to that challenge with significant revisions to the masonry design standard and the model building codes. New design literature and software is being developed to assist designers in using these new technologies.

MCPX 2008, Icon Expo 2009

The precast concrete industry's decision to terminate the MCPX tradeshow agreement has strengthened NCMA's resolve to maintain an exceptional tradeshow for the concrete industry. Exhibit booth space and exhibitors are committed to bringing the latest production technology to MCPX 2008, which is February 7 to 9, in Denver. The show's new name, Icon Expo, makes its debut in Indianapolis, February 26 to 28, 2009. Call NCMA sales director Ron Churchill at 703-713-1900 or rchurchill@ncma.org for more information or to reserve a space.



Member recruitment

Under the leadership of James Gaidry, vice president of the Sales and Marketing Department at NCMA, association staff has a renewed focus on membership recruitment. Expanded membership allows NCMA to develop more effective industry programs for members, and state and province associations. Join NCMA in recruiting new members: Contact membership manager Heidi Weiss for potential producer-member companies and Ron Churchill for potential associate-member companies at 703-713-1900 or hweiss@ncma.org, rchurchill@ncma.org, respectively.

An example of NCMA's commitment to membership recruitment is the recently completed Strategic Market Mapping Research, which identifies product attributes—sustainability, durability, aesthetics, energy efficiency, seismic integrity, and resistance—as areas for which NCMA will implement both education and code development programs to assist member companies in expanding markets.

New member categories

Market research identified that competent segmental retaining wall (SRW) installers and contractors are essential to further expanded hardscape markets. As a result, later this year, the association introduces two new membership categories to support the installers of hardscape products. NCMA has certified over 6,000 SRW installers, and both the contractor and installer member categories support the continued education of the workforce to ensure a stable installer base.

Foundation

The NCMA Education and Research Foundation now funds more than \$250,000 in programs each year, and has become a stabilizing factor in accomplishing vital research and education programs for market expansion.

The Foundation Co-Sponsors Blast Resistance Study of Concrete Masonry

Through support of an NCMA Education and Research Foundation grant, Auburn University in Alabama is developing finite element models to predict the blast resistance of masonry panels in full-scale research at the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), at Tyndall Air Force Base, Panama City, Florida.

The computer modeling aspect is invaluable because blast loads are intense but of short duration. Additionally, if the panel is completely destroyed during the actual tests, the opportunity for thorough understanding of how the masonry responds structurally is lost, as well. This software helps get as close as possible to the capacity of the panel without exceeding it. The use of this software will not cease with the completion of this research. The program will be compared to the actual test values, and after refinement and improvement, it will be used for designing masonry walls subjected to blast loads.

The need for new resilient structures that can withstand blast loading is emphasized by terrorist bombings, where the majority of injuries result from flying debris, mainly from shattered exterior walls themselves. Over the past decade, the U.S. government has encouraged and sponsored research towards developing construction methods to better protect occupants from blast effects. The Airbase Technologies Division of AFRL has been involved in developing innovative blast reinforcement technologies. In 1999, it began investigating the use of spray-on, polymer coat-



Masonry walls in test frame just prior to loading

ings to strengthen non-load-bearing, concrete masonry unit walls. A wide variety of elastomeric polymers were found to work well, taking advantage of the toughness and resiliency of those materials to effectively absorb the blast energy and contain flying wall fragments. The technique generated enormous interest throughout the industry and has become widely used for reinforcing masonry walls of critical facilities.

In early 2005 NCMA and other concrete industry associations joined AFRL to examine the blast resistance of typical Portland cement-based wall systems and to identify methods of improving blast resistance. A Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA), "Blast Resistant Concrete Products," was established between AFRL and the Portland Cement Association (PCA), and it was agreed that the involvement of the other organizations could be worked through the AFRL-PCA CRADA.

The first of three phases of the CRADA research focuses on market mature, insulated wall configurations using concrete masonry, precast concrete, or cast-in-place concrete. As part of this exciting program, NCMA identified five wall-section designs for Phase 1 testing. The first series of tests have been conducted, and involved six 8-foot (2.4-meter) wide by 10-foot 8-inch (3.3-meter) tall masonry walls. The vertical clear span was 10-feet (3.0 meters), and was loaded with up to 1,000 pounds of explosives detonated at varying distances from the test panel. There were three basic types of panels:

- Solid grouted, reinforced, 12-inch (305 mm) concrete masonry control walls
- Solid grouted, reinforced, 8-inch (203-mm) back-up concrete masonry wall (using square-end units) with 4-inch (102-mm) clay masonry veneer over 2 inches (51 mm) of extruded polystyrene insulation and 1-inch (25-mm) air-space
- The same veneer wall as above but with "A-block" type concrete masonry units.

NCMA member Block USA, Birmingham, Alabama, donated the concrete masonry materials, mortar, and grout; and nonmembers Jenkins Brick and General Masonry donated the clay masonry and labor, respectively. The results are classified; however, the wall sections performed better than anticipated and adjustments to the computer model are expected. ■

National Contest Finds the Best Masons

SkillsUSA attracted industry leaders, academia, and fellow masons to its forty-third annual National Leadership and Skills Conference, and Masonry Contest, held in June, at the Kansas City Convention Center and nearby Kemper Arena American Royal Center, both in Missouri.

The highlight of the conference—time and time again—is the National Masonry Contest, where this year, 48 mason students from 36 states competed against the clock and themselves to construct a brick and block composite project. Designed by Bryan Light at Brick Southeast Inc., Conyers, Georgia, both men and women contestants had up to six hours to construct the winning brick-and-mortar project on a concrete block base, according to plan. Those successful in the written and labor exams are considered prepared to enter the masonry profession.

Student interest in masonry vocational training is strong. To qualify for the National Masonry Contest, students must have been winners or designated second-place finishers of their own state contests. This year, 31 high-school and 17 post-secondary/college contestants competed in two divisions. Judges were trade professionals from Bricklayers Local 5 and selected vocational instructors who took extensive measurements, including plumb at six locations, and examined finishing techniques and overall appearance.

At the awards gala, Mr. Light, who has chaired the technical committee since 2003, appreciated the dedicated judges and organizers of the event, saying, “The masonry industry’s support of this competition remains fantastic. We all understand the importance of technical training to properly use the industry’s products, each of which contributes to excellence in finished brick and block projects.” More than 15,000 people attended the awards ceremony.



Competitors and contest sponsors gathered backstage. The red-jacketed winners of the secondary division, front row, are Jared Braveboy, Marcus Hefner, and Bradley Wright; post-secondary division winners, second row, are Travis Greenly, Michael Wagner, and Christian Cruz. The Masonry Technical Committee includes Kellie Hala, Marshalltown Co./The Rock Yard Inc.; Harry Junk, NCMA; Masonry Technical Committee chairman Bryan Light, Brick Southeast Inc.; former Masonry Technical Committee chairman Bill Kjorlien, Lafarge North America; and Al Herndon, Florida Masonry Apprentice and Education Foundation.



Secondary/high-school, third-place winner is Bradley Wright, 17, Earnest Pruet Center of Technology, Hollywood, Alabama.



Second-place secondary/high-school winner is Jared Braveboy, 17, Lake City High School, South Carolina.

Members of the National Masonry Technical Committee, and sustaining members and sponsors of the contest include Brick Southeast Inc.; Bon Tool Co., Gibsonia, Pennsylvania; Brick Industry Association, Reston, Virginia;

Hanley Wood, Washington DC; Marshalltown Co./The Rock Yard Inc., Payson, Arizona; Mason Contractors Association of America, Schaumburg, Illinois; Masonry Institute of Tennessee, Nashville; NCMA; Portland Cement

Association, Skokie, Illinois; Spec Mix, Mendota Heights, Minnesota; and Wasco Inc., Nashville, Tennessee.

This year's contestants used mortar donated by Spec Mix; brick from Yankee Hill Brick & Tile, Lincoln, Nebraska; and block from Midwest Block & Brick Inc., Kansas City, Missouri. Other organizations supporting the contest included Calculated Industries, Carson City, Nevada; and Carhartt North America, Dearborn, Michigan.

Other highlights of the annual conclave included a field trip to a local block plant, Miller Materials Company, A Div. of Oldcastle APG Midwest Inc., followed by a luncheon in honor of the contestants and their instruc-

tors. Mr. Light, the luncheon's keynote speaker, presented nearly 100 photos of a 20,000-square-foot brick and stone house, south of Atlanta, Georgia, of which he had been the mason contractor. He explained the intricacies of the massive project that spanned five years and used more than 300,000 units of block, brick, and stone.

The SkillsUSA organization represents 284,000 students and instructors in 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. The event is held in Kansas City, Missouri, through 2014. For more information about the Masonry Technical Committee, contact NCMA market manager Harry Junk at 703-713-1900 or hjunk@ncma.org. For more information, go to SkillsUSA.org. ■

Masonry teachers deserve much of the credit...

More than 600 miles separate North Carolina and Kansas City. But, with two of the four top winners of the SkillsUSA national masonry competition hailing from the Tar Heel State, you might think it's a mere step between the two.

"We have a tradition that we have to live up to," says Tim Kidd, masonry instructor at West Stanley High School in south-central North Carolina. Mr. Kidd's student Marcus Hefner took first prize in the secondary school category.

That tradition, Mr. Kidd says, comes from the state's record number of victories at SkillsUSA and from being a national hub of block and brick production. Since 1998, 18 high-school

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and post-secondary gold-, silver- and bronze-medal winners have hailed from North Carolina.

The state has a high number of secondary school masonry programs—104 of them, according to Lynn Nash, executive director of the North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association in Hickory. Once those students are seniors, they can register with the state Department of Labor's masonry apprenticeship program. That was the route Marcus Hefner took, and Mr. Kidd believes the arrangement is key to raising a new generation of masons.

Mr. Kidd adds, "You need the shop, that high-school part, to get the basics....[W]hen you get in the apprenticeship program, that's real life. That's when they learn what it's all about. At my school, a senior can get out at 11:30 and get to the job site by 12. He has a good half-day on the job, getting paid for it, and getting school credit."

Teachers deserve much of the credit for the quality of masonry graduates, says Paul LaVene, president at the Carolinas Concrete Masonry Association, Greensboro, North Carolina, which represents both North and South Carolina. "They're giving a level of mentor-



After up to six hours of labor, the competitors displayed their completed projects.

ing, both for developing the students' basic skills, and for their development as individuals."

North Carolina masonry instructors have their own association, which meets three times a year to compare notes and discuss best practices, Mr. Kidd says. "And each time we get together, [the] industry's there. It's a close-knit group."

The close relationship with industry players is another source of strength. Mr. Nash sees a correlation between strong masonry programs and local

contractors who are involved in promoting the programs. "Schools are under tremendous pressure to make a little money go a long way. When there's not a local lobbying effort, vocational instruction suffers," he says.

Despite the close relations between instructors and friendships among students, on the day of a competition that old legacy of competition takes over, Mr. Kidd says. "We might all drive up together, and then, it's going to be another dog fight this year." ■

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Pennsylvania Opens Masonry Boot Camp

If you're looking for a good mason who doesn't smoke or cuss and who comes to work in a jacket and tie, give Dan Hildebeutel a call. He's the director of the masonry program at the Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades in Media, Pennsylvania, southwest of Philadelphia.

Decorum and discipline are as important at Williamson as the technical training. Since its founding, Williamson has given its students free room, board, and tuition. "It's an opportunity for a young man who can't afford a post-secondary education. But it's not easy."

In exchange for the opportunity, students submit to the rigor of a boot camp. The day begins with flag raising at 6:45 a.m. Shoes must be shined, beds made, wastebaskets emptied. With enough infractions, a student loses the privilege of going home for the weekend. If a student fails a random test for drugs or alcohol, he is suspended immediately. The morning includes a 30-minute religious service in the school chapel. The day ends at 10:30 p.m., with lights out.

There are 41 students in the three-year masonry program. First- and third-year students study academic subjects in the morning, and report to Mr. Hildebeutel from 1 to 5 p.m. Their



Masonry program director Dan Hildebeutel speaks to students at Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades, Media, Pennsylvania.



Since its founding, Williamson has given its students free room, board, and tuition.

classroom time is separate, but the two classes mix during lab.

"Seniors will mentor the freshmen. Freshmen will mix and carry mortar for the seniors," says Mr. Hildebeutel, who has led the program since 1998. "There's definitely a pecking order at Williamson, where the freshmen are the underlings and have to serve the mighty seniors."

Second-year students do their masonry work in the morning, which
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STRATEGIES FOR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AT NCMA

Charting a course

What made this year's Midyear Meeting particularly memorable was the NCMA members' planning of an aggressive legislative agenda on Capitol Hill, and the building blocks of a strategy to make that happen.

Rick Muth, chairman of the Government Affairs Committee, and NCMA president Mark Hogan, arrived in Boston, having just taken the significant step of approving a political action committee (PAC). As part of a new legislative strategy to strengthen the industry and our members' role in it—in the short and long term, PAC and the Government Affairs Committee have elevated the role and influence NCMA plays in the political process in Washington DC.

PAC Reception for Senator Collins

Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)—a most influential and powerful senator—was chosen for this year's PAC for her role in increasing the visibility of the concrete masonry and hard-scape industry as the building material of choice.

She received a great welcome during NCMA's PAC reception, beginning with an introduction by Matt Genest at Genest Concrete Product, Sanford, Maine. As a strong advocate for business and construction, Senator Collins briefly outlined her position on issues critically important to the concrete products industry, such as energy policy, estate tax, fire safety legislation, immigration reform, and military construction initiatives—with many of her comments bringing rounds of applause. See photos of the PAC reception on page 11.

The NCMA PAC receptions raise awareness of the political process and encourage friends of the industry to develop

The “Strategic Plan for Government Affairs” at NCMA lays out a bold vision, making members significant stakeholders in the political process.

The objective is to position the association as an active participant in the national energy debates, which are certain to occupy Congress this decade and beyond.

strong relationships with Congress. The event raises the lion's share of funding for the association's political activities. For information on the NCMA PAC, contact government affairs director Bill Plenge at 703-713-1900 or bplenge@ncma.org.

Special thanks to sponsors of the PAC Reception: ACM Chemistries Inc., Adolf Jandris & Sons Inc., Besser Co., Big Rock Building Products-Oldcastle Architectural Inc.-West, Billy Wauhop and Associates LLC, Block USA, Columbia Machine Inc., Conway Block Company Inc., CTI Inc./Masa-USA LLC, Davis Colors, Fizzano Brothers Concrete Products Inc., Grace Construction Products, LANXESS Corporation, Oberfield's Inc., Oldcastle Architectural Inc., Pathfinder Systems/Tiger, ORCO Block Co. Inc., R I Lampus Co., RCP Block & Brick Inc., Southeastern Concrete Products, and Valley Block & Brick.

Strategic plan

Much is written in great literature of politics about participatory democracy, advocacy, and the importance of grassroots activity. At Midyear, the Government Affairs Committee approved the legislative approaches in the Strategic Plan for Government Affairs. These approaches, when fully implemented, raise the profile of NCMA in Washington DC, by boldly and unequivocally stating, “We represent one of the oldest and most important industries in this country, and are prepared to work with Congress on issues we believe in. We are here for the long haul; we have a long-term commitment to the political process.”

Issues inventory

Also, at Midyear NCMA approved an issues inventory, priorities, and pathways to success. The inventory wasn't drafted in a vacuum: It was based on analysis and experience from, and discussions among, association members—foremost



More than 300 NCMA members and their spouses had a successful and productive 2007 Midyear Meeting in the heart of Boston.

industry leaders today. It is a bold list of national issues and those more germane to the industry:

- Building markets, tax policy
- Employer-provided health care
- Energy legislation—sustainability, passive solar
- Estate/death tax repeal
- Fire safety
- Immigration reform
- Silica
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Milcon (military construction)
- Wind resistance (Hurricane Katrina, Gulf Coast)

For some of these issues, such as immigration reform and repeal of the estate tax, NCMA works with other national groups and coalitions. For the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) or the enactment of passive solar legislation efforts, NCMA's work is essential to the success of the advocacy mission and policy revisions. Without NCMA's active leadership in these designated areas, there may be no congressional debates on the issue, no change in policy, no added value for members.

We are participants; we are leaders

Our pathways anticipate two levels of legislative activity in our issues inventory:

1. Active leadership in the industry, including significant involvement from the NCMA PAC, engagement in debate, obtain and maintain the attention of Congress, and carry the burden of advocacy. As a result of NCMA's attention to these matters, Congress may look to the industry for expertise and opinions—our agenda and our concerns become Congress's concerns, and we help shape solutions.
2. Maximize supportive participation in coalitions, so Congress knows the industry's position on the issues.

USACE

By far, the two issues that commanded the most attention in the Government Affairs Committee meeting at Midyear were USACE and the shaping of national energy policy.

Changing the course of the current culture at USACE is critical to the future of the concrete masonry industry. The current policies that favor other materials at the expense

of concrete masonry are unfair, and our industry believes unacceptable. Our plan to deal with this is bold and imaginative, political and programmatic.

By making considerable political effort on Capital Hill and at USACE, we aim to raise the profile of the industry and increase the amount of concrete block used in military construction. Meaningful relationships with key congressional committees have to be built and sustained; and strong, long-term advocacy at the agency is necessary for the industry to reverse/erase years of bias, bureaucratic inertia, and a decision-making culture that has cost the industry significant market share.

But, make no mistake about it and have no illusions to the contrary—NCMA has to lead this effort for decades to come. No other industry can or will help us.

Energy policy

It is the opportune time for NCMA to lead a significant showcase on sustainability, which is a hot topic on Capitol Hill. Congress tries to capture its essence in various energy proposals. Some of the most visible of the energy incentive proposals debated by Congress over the past 20 years are those that provide incentives for passive design of buildings.

If NCMA seeks to promote the enactment of passive solar energy incentives, we must lead the effort for legislation that came close to passage over 20 years ago, and has now reemerged. Our objective is to position NCMA as an active participant in the national energy debates that are certain to occupy Congress this decade and beyond. The immediate objective is to seek the enactment of tax incentives that reward the sustainability of concrete block design and its adaptability to new renewable energy technologies, such as solar energy. This effort requires an aggressive, industry-oriented strategy of legislative development, relationship building, grassroots, industry coalition building, and advocacy.

It is our industry

We came to Boston with optimism and a vision of challenges and opportunities. We left with purpose and with a plan to carry out the strategic vision for the Government Affairs Committee. Implementing the plan requires a significant effort and commitment, but it is an effort worth making and a journey worth taking. ■



2007 Midyear Meeting Recap

Moving with precision and speed that would make the infamous minuteman envious, 45 members of the board of directors, committees, subcommittees, and task groups met over the course of five days to:

- Review the association's work and progress toward promoting, protecting, and advancing the concrete products industry.
- Discuss the challenges, opportunities, and issues confronting the members and their businesses.
- Map out the direction, goals, and objectives for the coming years.

More than 300 NCMA members and their spouses had a successful and productive 2007 Midyear Meeting in the heart of Boston.

If you missed this year's Midyear, or if you want to review the minutes from any of the meetings, go to

ncma.org/members/midyearminutes07.html for a complete compilation of all meetings.

Fall Optional Ballot Programs announced

At Midyear, five projects were selected for the 2007 Fall Optional Ballots, each ranging from \$250 to \$1,250. They are:

2009 CHBC Technology Tour Sponsorship

NCMA has a sponsorship role for the Concrete Home Building Council's Technology Tour, which exposes homebuilders and architects to NCMA's marketing messages, and provides face-to-face interaction with homebuilders during the tour. Total program cost is \$3,750, 1 unit cost is \$250.

2009 USGBC Greenbuild Expo

Influence landscape architects attending the U.S. Green Building Council's GreenBuild Expo through face-to-face interaction at the NCMA booth. Promote the sustainable features of concrete masonry and hardscape products. Total program cost is \$20,000; 1 unit cost is \$1,250.

2009 Construction Specification Institute Trade Show

From implementing LEED to advances in security technology to specifications that stand up in court, this professional development event is an opportunity to delve into the industry's hot topics under the leadership of expert speakers. The Construction Specification Institute (CSI) is a national association dedicated to creating standards and formats to improve construction documents and project delivery. The organization is unique in the industry in that its members are a cross section of specifiers, architects, engineers, contractors, and building materials suppliers. CSI is engineering the future of design and construction with its 2007 show, which is the only venue to meet architects, specifiers, engineers, and contractors for the commercial building mar-



ketplace—all under one roof. Reach buyers and specifiers working in local and state government, education, residential, commercial, and healthcare industries. Total program cost is \$20,000; 1 unit cost is \$1,250.

2009 NAHB Tradeshow Exhibit

Influence homebuilders that concrete masonry is the best choice for fire safety when constructing residences. This is accomplished by placing an exhibit booth at the National Association of Home Builders's International Home Builders Show in 2009, and conducting face-to-face interaction with homebuilders. Total program cost is \$26,500; 1 unit cost is \$1,250.

2008 Federal Officials Seminar (Hardscape/SRW)

Influence federal government officials to use segmental retaining wall units, ACBs, and other concrete and hardscape products in construction and maintenance projects. This is accomplished by conducting a free, one-day seminar in the Washington DC area. Total program cost is \$10,000, 1 unit cost is \$750.

The funding of Optional Ballots is very important to market expansion, and should be supported by every member of NCMA. To support a 2007 Fall Optional Ballot, go to the members-only section (ncma.org/members/ballots/Fall2007) to make your pledge. Contact NCMA's membership and partnership development vice president James Gaidry at 703-713-1900 or jgaidry@ncma.org for more information.

Special recognition at the Business Luncheon

NCMA members took time during the 2007 Midyear Meeting Business Luncheon to recognize some very special members, industry leaders, and student competitors.

Anthony "Tony" Fizzano, president of Fizzano Brothers Concrete Products Inc., Crum Lynne, Pennsylvania, received

Student design awards' poster sessions, the Paul and Helen Lenchuck Golf Tournament fundraiser, and member awards and networking—a few of the week's highlights.

NCMA's Lifetime Achievement Award for recognition of his outstanding service and dedication in promoting the concrete masonry industry. Mr. Fizzano has been a member of the association since 1950, and is chairman of the Dues Structure and Effect of Consolidations Task Group, a member of the Government Affairs Committee, and has held a seat on the Membership Dues and Bylaws Committee since 1997. A dedicated supporter of the NCMA Education and Research Foundation, he has previously served on the foundation's National Endowment Council and the Board of Trustees.

Gerhold Concrete Company Inc., Columbus, Nebraska, and **H. K. Buzby & Sons**, Lebanon, New Jersey, each celebrate 50 years of continuous membership in NCMA. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the concrete masonry industry and the association.

The first-place winners of the NCMA Education and Research Foundation's architecture and engineering student design competitions were recognized during the Business Luncheon: Drexel University's team of **Tom Golecki**, **Adam Thomas**, and **Matt Wolfe**, with Professor Franklin Moon; Ball State University's **Jared Burt**; and Carnegie Mellon

University's **Diego Taccioli**. The foundation supports these competitions to help familiarize design students with concrete masonry and hardscape systems, and encourage future design professionals to specify those systems in construction projects. To encourage your local college to apply for a competition grant, download the application template from ncma.org/foundation/competition/announcement.htm, or contact education and certification manager David Rozsa at 703-713-1900 or drouza@ncma.org.

New membership categories

The NCMA Board of Directors has approved the development of two new membership categories—one for segmental retaining wall contractors and another for individual installers of segmental retaining walls. With these new members, the association builds relationships and partnerships with those contractors and installers that play a significant role in shaping the future of the industry.

NCMA restructures membership dues

Membership dues for 2008, effective October 1, 2007, are much easier to calculate using a new formula and structure approved at the NCMA Board of Directors meeting at Mid-year. The old dues structure, with its incremental steps and a dues cap, was considered by many members as inequitable.

Although in recent years there have been modest, across-the-board annual increases—two to five percent—in dues, there was no across-the-board increase for 2008. The new structure eliminates the dues cap for producer and associate members, is phased in over three years, and includes a reduction in dues rates as company size increases. NCMA distributed the new formulas for 2008 dues calculations in August with the Annual Membership Dues Renewal forms. For a comparison of the old and new dues structures, go to ncma.org/enews/ProducerAssociateMemberDues.pdf.

Fundraising, networking

The annual **Paul and Helen Lenchuk Golf Tournament and Tennis Social** were again successful in raising scholarship funds for the NCMA Education and Research Foundation. Forty-five golfers and twelve tennis players supported the cause and enjoyed an afternoon of networking.

Thank you to these generous sponsors of the tournaments: ACM Chemistries Inc., Advanced Concrete Technologies Inc., Anchor Wall Systems Inc., Besser Company, Columbia Machine Inc., Cornerstone Wall Solutions Inc., CTI, Inc./Masa-USA LLC, Dancing Bear Inc., Hess Machinery Ltd., Krete Industries Inc., Pathfinder Systems/Tiger, Rampf Molds Industries Inc., and Standley Batch Systems Inc. ■

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The Mile-High City Hosts 2008 MCPX

With its 300 days of sunshine and majestic mountain backdrop, Denver stands tall as the host city for the 2008 Manufactured Concrete Products Exposition (MCPX), February 7 to 9, at the Colorado Convention Center. Five sponsoring associations have planned an outstanding trade show, with a full range of technical training, product demonstrations, a working lab, and a host of optional events to make the 2008 MCPX the year's top event in the manufactured concrete products industry.

Denver—the mile-high city—offers something for everyone year-round, with its history, museums, shopping, fine dining, cultural events, and breweries. In February, the Rocky Mountains come alive for excellent outdoor adventures, like world-class skiing and snow boarding. Denver is a clean, young, and green city, with over 200 parks and dozens of tree-lined boulevards.

Within easy-walking distance in central downtown Denver are 5,200 hotel rooms, the city's convention center complex, performing arts complex, and a wide variety of shops, department stores, restaurants, and nightspots. Another short walk takes you to the city's top attractions, including the Denver Pavilions, Denver Art Museum, and Colorado

History Museum. A mile-long pedestrian mall cuts through the heart of downtown Denver, surrounded by a series of parks and plazas that soften the towering skyscrapers and provide viewpoints from which to see and appreciate the modern architecture.

Lower downtown (called “LoDo” by locals) is on the northern edge of downtown Denver, and offers one of the nation's greatest concentrations of Victorian buildings and warehouses, many of which have been refurbished to house restaurants, art galleries, offices, and shops. This is the center of the city's six large brew pubs and micro breweries, each brewing six to eight exclusive beers.

Just outside the city of Denver, you find world-renowned skiing venues, historic-mining towns, and some of the most scenic parks in the country.

Getting to Denver is easy, thanks to the Denver International Airport. Twenty-two airlines offer 1,200 flights, including non-stops to 120 American cities. To make traveling enjoyable, the airport has the largest public art program in American history, where local and national artists create works specifically for this unique setting. ■

MASONRY BOOT CAMP

continued from page 9

“It’s an opportunity for a young man who can’t afford a post-secondary education. But, it’s not easy.” Dan Hildebeitel, Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades, Media, Pennsylvania

includes studying masonry theory. Regardless of year, all students arrive in the masonry shop in jacket and tie. “We have lockers where they change into tan pants, maroon T-shirt, heavy work shoes, safety glasses, and go to work.”

The students' contract with the school requires them to spend 10 weeks of the 12-week summer vacation working on a job site.

Williamson “is a unique place,” Mr. Hildebeitel says. “It’s like nothing you’ve ever seen before.”

In fact, Williamson is straight out of the nineteenth century. It was founded in 1888 by Philadelphia philanthropist Isaiah Vasant Williamson, who wanted to “provide financially disadvantaged young men with the opportunity to become productive and respected members of society,” according to the school's website. Williamson's original \$2

million endowment still covers 40 percent of the school's expenses, says Mr. Hildebeitel. Fund-raising, much of it by alumni, helps make up the rest.

The masonry program runs on two tracks: One is a diploma program, emphasizing construction experience; the other is an associate's degree program in construction technology, geared toward management.

The most recent graduating class was split down the middle, with six becoming advanced apprentice masons and six taking positions at building companies. One of the latter is Michael Wagner, who won first place in the post-secondary school category at this year's SkillsUSA competition in Kansas City, Missouri. At the awards ceremony, he wore his jacket and tie. ■

Opportunities

In response to training needs identified by NCMA committee members, three new courses are being rolled out this fall: An industry-customized version of the Karrass Effective Negotiating Seminar, a ten-city tour of the NAHB Train-the-Trainer piloted last November, and the much-anticipated Concrete Product University's (CPU) Instructor Training Course.

Karrass Effective Negotiating Seminar November 14-15, 2007, at NCMA, Herndon, Virginia

"Success" means overcoming obstacles and achieving goals. Most of the time, being successful depends to some degree on the ability to negotiate lasting agreements with others. More than 650,000 people have attended a Karrass Effective Negotiating Seminar to date. To help hone the skills of persuasion, NCMA has arranged for a special session of this seminar, offered at a discount to NCMA members. Through interviews with industry leaders, this seminar has been customized to address negotiation situations and issues typically encountered in the concrete masonry and hardscape industry. At this seminar, invest in your own success by learning the effective negotiation skills and tactics that help you get what you want.

NAHB Train-the-Trainer: Instructor Training, Best Practices for Concrete Pavers and SRW Systems, and Concrete Masonry Home Building

In cooperation with the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Concrete Home Building Council and

the Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute, NCMA has co-developed two NAHB courses: Best Practices for Concrete Pavers and Segmental Retaining Walls (4 hours), and Concrete Masonry Home Building (4 hours). Now, you can teach these courses to builders.

By providing a basic introduction to concrete masonry and hardscape systems, these courses familiarize builders with the industry's products, and encourage the use of these materials in residential construction projects. You can become authorized to deliver these two courses to home-builders by completing a two-day NAHB Train-the-Trainer session, which consists of NCMA's CPU Instructor Training Course and the two NAHB courses. This course offering is a perfect opportunity to build relationships with builders, since the two courses are part of NAHB's Residential Construction Superintendent certification program. The NAHB Train-the-Trainer is going on tour, appearing in a city near you this fall.

Indianapolis, Indiana

September 11-12

Boston, Massachusetts

September 25-26

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

October 2-3

Atlanta, Georgia

October 10-11

Honolulu, Hawaii

October 18-19

San Francisco, California

October 22-23

Seattle, Washington

October 25-26

Phoenix, Arizona

November 19-20

Minneapolis, Minnesota

November 27-28

Herndon, Virginia

December 12-13

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Fax 301-468-3918
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General Contractor

CPU Instructor Training Course

November 2, 2007 at NCMA Herndon, VA

Have you ever wanted NCMA to schedule a Concrete Products University (CPU) course in your location, or found it inconvenient to travel (or send your employees) to NCMA in Herndon, Virginia, for vital industry training? Do you—or someone else in your company—have a passion for improving the industry and sharing knowledge? NCMA is building a CPU Instructor cadre to deliver CPU courses locally throughout the United States and Canada. (A few CPU courses may only be taught by NCMA staff or NCMA-approved subject-matter experts.) Each participant who successfully completes the one-day CPU Instructor Training Course is authorized as a CPU Instructor, and is qualified to teach local sessions of courses for which the instructor has completed an Instructor Course Module.

At the CPU Instructor Training Course, participants learn:

- The basic principles of adult continuing education.
- Effective verbal and nonverbal presentation skills.
- How to develop supporting audio-visual materials.
- How to serve as a knowledge resource for business partners.
- How to teach NCMA's CPU courses locally. ■

For more information about these courses, or to register, contact NCMA schools administrator Brittaney Kamhong Thompson at 703-713-1900 or bkamhong@ncma.org.

Safety Course Development

At Midyear, the Education and Training Committee recommended the development of a block plant safety course, in cooperation with other relevant NCMA committees. The course content is expected to include best practices of the NCMA/Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute Safety Awards winners, the new version of NCMA's safety software, and the use of safety posters and other resources. To participate in the development of this course, contact education and certification manager David Rozsa with your topic ideas, safety strategies, and pitfalls to avoid at 703-713-1900 or drozsa@ncma.org. ■

TEK 6-12C International Energy

Conservation Code and Concrete Masonry

The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) serves as a written model for states, counties, cities, or other jurisdictions to develop local codes for energy-efficient building design. Included are changes from the 2003 to 2006 editions of the code, including reformatting the tables and lightweight, concrete masonry units. TEK 6-12C references TEK 6-4A Energy Compliance Using COMcheck, and tradeoff compliance using COMcheck and other available software. This TEK is designed for architects, engineers, and residential designers. Contractors, building officials, and inspectors may find the information helpful. To order copies of this and other TEKs, call the Publications Department at 703-713-1900.

The online version of October's TEK 6-4A is now available free from select NCMA members. Go to ncma.org for a list of member sites providing e-TEKs.

In Memoriam

John W. Graves



John W. Graves, 46, died July 7 in Phoenix, Arizona, after a brief battle with brain cancer. He was the president/owner of Villa Pavers, an installer of interlocking pavement and segmental retaining walls, in Phoenix. Mr. Graves began his lifelong career in concrete masonry at his father's business, Arizona Block

in Gilbert; then Deer Valley Block and Superlite Block, both in Phoenix; followed by Southwest Block, Rio Rancho, New Mexico; before starting Villa Pavers in 1999. Mr. Graves is survived by his wife and six children.

Karrass Effective Negotiating Seminar Customized for the Concrete Masonry and Hardscape Industry

November 14–15, 2007 | NCMA Herndon, Virginia



Get what you want, while building strong relationships with others.

- ▶ Get what you want through successful negotiation. Let NCMA and KARRASS help you strengthen the key skills you need in business and life.
- ▶ Apply the KARRASS edge to your most important negotiations.
- ▶ Through interviews with NCMA members, this seminar has been customized to address negotiation situations and issues typically encountered in the concrete masonry and hardscape industry.
- ▶ Karrass's Effective Negotiating two-day seminar, shows you how to:
 - Stick to your game plan.
 - Tap into more power than you think you have.
 - Set targets.
 - Use tips from the competition.
 - Avoid traps, and use tactics and countermeasures.
 - Deal with deadlocks—and win.
 - Make successful agreements and keep them.

Who Should Attend?

Company owners, managers, sales representatives, and other personnel responsible for negotiating profitable outcomes for business.

Tuition is \$950 for NCMA members and \$1,500 for nonmembers, and includes two days of instruction, the Karrass Multimedia Kit (described below), continental breakfast, and lunch on both days. Transportation, lodging, dinner, and incidental hotel charges are not included.

The KARRASS MultiMedia Kit, provided free to each registered participant, allows you to keep learning after the seminar is over.

Six CDs, two of Dr. Karrass's bestselling books, and an exercise workbook offer you the most complete negotiating reference material available anywhere.

Schedule

Day One

8:30 a.m.	Check-in and continental breakfast
9 a.m.–Noon	Effective Negotiating Seminar
Noon–1 p.m.	Lunch
1 p.m.–5 p.m.	Effective Negotiating Seminar

Day Two

8:30 a.m.	Continental breakfast
9 a.m.–Noon	Effective Negotiating Seminar
Noon–1 p.m.	Lunch
1 p.m.–5 p.m.	Effective Negotiating Seminar

Sharpen the negotiation skills you already have.

Achieve better, longer-lasting, win-win agreements.

Register me for the CPU Karrass Effective Negotiating Seminar.

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Title

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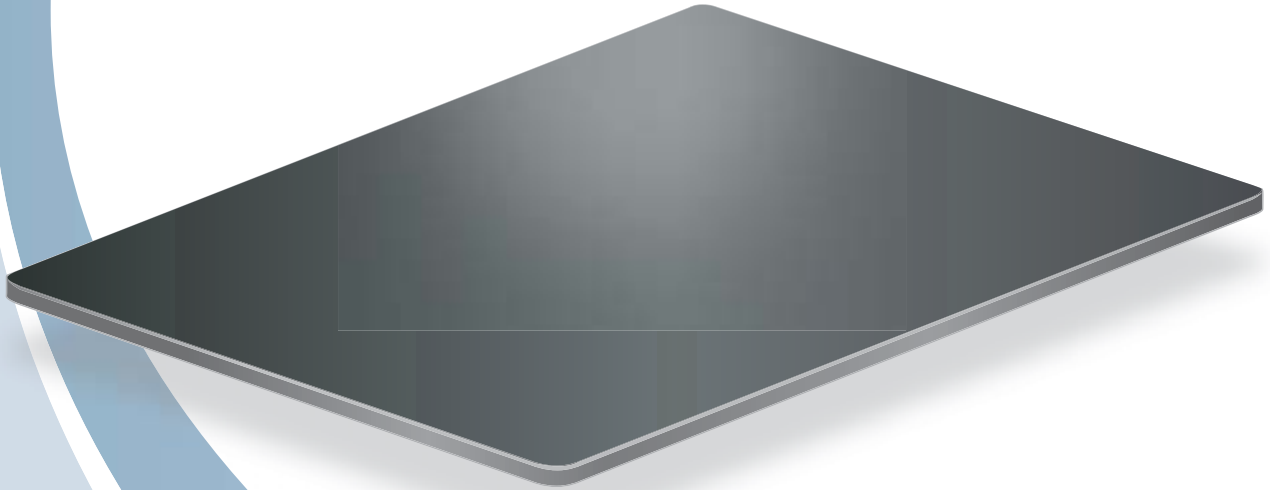
Please return this registration form to: NCMA, 13750 Sunrise Valley Drive, Herndon, Virginia 20171; fax 703-713-1910; email bkamhong@ncma.org.

For more information, contact **Brittaney R. K. Thompson at bkamhong@ncma.org or 703-713-1900.**

CANCELLATION POLICY: Students canceling less than three weeks before the first day of the course are refunded the tuition fee less 50 percent of the total fee without discount.



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UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

To view the entire industry calendar, please visit: <http://www.ncma.org/online/industrycalendar.pdf>.

September

11 Masonry Institute of Tennessee ■ IT Role of Masonry in Sustainable Design and LEED ■ Johnson City, Tennessee ■ Carnegie Hotel ■ arenfro@xmat.com

11 Nebraska Concrete Masonry Association ■ Board Meeting ■ Grand Island, Nebraska ■ info@nebraskaconcretemasonry.com

11 International Masonry Institute ■ Bovis Lend Lease Masonry Day ■ Addison, Illinois ■ District Council Training Center ■ www.masonrydetails.org

11-12 NCMA & National Association of Home Builders ■ Train-the-Trainer-Instructor Training, Best Practices for Concrete Pavers and SRW Systems, and Concrete Masonry Home Building ■ Indianapolis, Indiana ■ hjunk@ncma.org

12 International Masonry Institute ■ Bovis Lend Lease Masonry Day ■ Addison, Illinois ■ District Council Training Center ■ www.masonrydetails.org

13 Canadian Concrete Masonry Producers Association ■ Annual General Meeting & Golf Tournament ■ Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario ■ Royal Niagara Golf Course ■ www.ccmppa.ca

14 International Masonry Institute & Capital District Masonry Institute ■ Presentation on Masonry Detailing ■ Albany, New York ■ Desmond Hotel ■ www.masonrydetails.org

25-26 Train-the-Trainer-Instructor Training ■ Boston, Massachusetts ■ hjunk@ncma.org

26 Northwest Concrete Masonry Association ■ Annual Meeting ■ Seattle, Washington ■ DoubleTree Guest Suites ■ tcyoung@nwcma.org

26-27 NCMA ■ Marketing Strategy Session ■ Chicago, Illinois ■ jgaidry@ncma.org

27-30 Concrete Masonry Association of California and Nevada ■ Fall Conference ■ Napa Valley, California ■ Villagio Inn & Spa ■ info@cmacn.org

28 Concrete Masonry Association of California and Nevada ■ Design Awards Banquet, Napa Valley, California ■ Villagio Inn & Spa ■ info@cmacn.org

30-October 4 International Codes Council ■ Annual Conference ■ Reno, Nevada ■ Grand Sierra ■ iccsafe.org

October

1-3 ASTM International ■ Committee E 06 Performance of Buildings Meeting ■ Tampa, Florida ■ Marriott Waterside ■ astm.org

2-3 NCMA & National Association of Home Builders ■ Train-the-Trainer-Instructor Training, Best Practices for Concrete Pavers and SRW Systems, and Concrete Masonry Home Building ■ Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania ■ hjunk@ncma.org

5-9 American Society of Landscape Architects ■ Annual Meeting and Expo ■ San Francisco, California ■ Moscone North Convention Center ■ asla.org

6-9 The Council of Educational Facility Planners ■ 84th Annual International Conference ■ Toronto, Ontario, Canada ■ Fairmont Royal York ■ mike@cefpi.org

9 Nebraska Concrete Masonry Association ■ Board/Budget Meeting and UNL Arch Banquet ■ info@nebraskaconcretemasonry.com

10-11 Train-the-Trainer-Instructor Training, ■ Atlanta, Georgia ■ hjunk@ncma.org

11 NCMA Long Range Planning Committee ■ Napa, California ■ Silverado Resort ■ lkasabian@ncma.org

11-13 NCMA Concrete Masonry Testing Procedures Course ■ Herndon, Virginia, ■ ncma.org/meet/edu

12 NCMA Executive Committee Meeting ■ Napa, California ■ Silverado Resort ■ lkasabian@ncma.org

15-20 NCMA and Construction Specification Institute ■ Technical Sales Course and C³M Certification Program ■ Herndon, Virginia ■ ncma.org/meet/edu

18-19 Train-the-Trainer-Instructor Training ■ Honolulu, Hawaii ■ hjunk@ncma.org

22-23 Train-the-Trainer-Instructor Training ■ San Francisco, California ■ hjunk@ncma.org

25-26 NCMA & National Association of Home Builders ■ Train-the-Trainer-Instructor Training, Best Practices for Concrete Pavers and SRW Systems, and Concrete Masonry Home Building ■ Seattle, Washington ■ hjunk@ncma.org

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Batching plant for ready-mix

- 12 cu yd Erie Strayer mobile plant can be sold as dry batch plant or C/w 12 cy Erie Strayer tilt mixer. 3 Compartments 80 cu. yd. and cement silo 165 ton split 100/65 tons.

Conveyors

- 3 V-Belt conveyors: 24 inch by 135 ft, 50 ft and a reversible 60 ft.
- 2 conveyors of 30 inch x 32 ft, 30 inch by 23 ft.
- Heavy duty slat conveyor of 48 inch in width and 25 foot long with sub structure.

Cubers

- Mid 70's Besser SF5 automatic cubing system with one turn table.
- 2001 Besser SF7 Semi-automatic cubing system.
- 1980 Lithibar cubing system rebuilt in 1999. Semi-Automatic with tear clamps.

Block plants

- Besser Dynapac block machine (1987) with UL26 handling system (2001).
- Besser V312 complete block plant.
- Ciematic complete block plant. Liquidation price.
- Columbia 16 machine with UL26 handling system.

Mixers

- New 1985 (never used) 2 cu. Yd. Elba ribbon mixer & skip hoist.
- Besser 100 cu. Ft. ribbon type mixer completely overhauled. Wichita clutch, new style liners, probes, new blades, new discharge door.
- 2 Teka (1997 and 2000) pan type mixer, 1250 liters.
- (2) Mixer system 2 cu. Yd. (1995) pan type mixer.

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WHAT: The global concrete products' premier annual trade show, **Icon Expo** features education programs, product demonstrations, networking opportunities, and social events. Exhibitors from around the world showcase the latest products and technology for the concrete industry.

WHO: Icon Expo is produced by the National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA), in conjunction with other affiliated industry groups and partners. Icon Expo continues NCMA's nearly century old commitment to a combined industry-wide trade show that serves the needs and interests of all producers, suppliers, contractors, installers, and everyone in the concrete industry.

WHERE: One of the most hospitable cities in America, **Indianapolis** has long been known as the "Crossroads of America," where many of the nation's highways converge. Prepare to be impressed. This metropolitan area continues to surprise and delight visitors with its stunning skyline, world-class attractions, and vibrant downtown. Indianapolis has a thriving arts community, an excellent selection of restaurants, and the Circle Centre Mall contains 800,000 square feet of upscale shopping and entertainment options. Indianapolis is home to nine professional sports teams, and hosts major sporting events, such as the NCAA's Men's Basketball Final Four Championships, Indianapolis 500, Brickyard 400, and Formula One's U.S. Grand Prix.

HOW: **The Indianapolis Convention Center is extremely accessible**, located within a 12-minute drive of the Indianapolis International Airport. Once there, getting around town is equally effortless, using a limo, taxi, bus, or horse-drawn carriage. Even the city's new pedal cab moves people from place to place with ease. Plus, several downtown venues, including the Convention Center, are connected via temperature-controlled skywalks.

iconexpo.org ■ info@iconexpo.org

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Don't Miss Out!

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Distributors and suppliers of concrete products
- Hardscape Installers
- Design engineers and landscape designers
- Architects
- Masonry contractors

LEARN THE NEWEST TECHNIQUES

Get up close and watch firsthand product demonstrations, covering the latest techniques and production practices in the industry. Network with exhibitors and fellow producers on the use of these technologies.

GAIN A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

To keep your competitive edge, you need to remain knowledgeable about the latest advances in manufactured concrete products technology and production techniques. Over the three-day period, attendees have access to dozens of industry-specific courses. Grouped in individual tracks, Icon Expo educational courses cover everything from production and management to quality and safety. Whether you are looking for targeted, single-topic courses or a complete three-day school, Icon Expo is THE PLACE for manufactured concrete products education.

REGISTER EARLY!

Exciting speakers, plentiful meal functions, fun receptions and parties, adventurous tours, networking with peers, and the world-class city of Indianapolis await you at Icon Expo 2009. Attendees will be able to register for Icon Expo 2009 using the online registration system at iconexpo.org. Online and early registrations are strongly encouraged.



YOUR PERSONAL TRADE SHOW PLANNER

Before you leave for Indianapolis and the 2009 Icon Expo, be sure to check out the Virtual Trade Show at iconexpo.org. Once you enter the Web site, simply click the Attendee Helper button for an online personal assistant to help you plan your time at the show. With Attendee Helper you can:

- See what products will be on display.
- Find exhibitors by product or keyword search.
- Identify the exhibitors you want to see and add them to your personal show planner and floor plan.
- Request product information prior to the show.

If you are planning an annual, regional, or other company meeting or event, bring your team to Indianapolis. It's a great central location, with the latest technology, products, and services. We can help you meet your needs.

EXHIBITORS REACH ALL THE IMPORTANT PEOPLE AT ICON EXPO

Icon Expo offers exhibitors three days of valuable networking opportunities with key decision makers in the concrete masonry industry. Make sure your company is represented. It's your chance to showcase your products and services to the buyers who produce, specify, or sell concrete products. You have the opportunity to meet manufacturers of:

- Concrete masonry block.
- Precast concrete.
- Concrete paver.
- Concrete pipe.
- SRW.
- Prestressed concrete.



EXHIBITOR EXCLUSIVITY

Only exhibitors are allowed to solicit on the show floor. To protect you and the show's integrity, violators are asked to cease this activity or be escorted from the show floor.

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Which Respirator Is Right for You?

What does one do when the air quality at work is found to be a hazard? The best way to protect your employees is to get rid of the hazard, which can be accomplished by “engineering” it out. Ventilation is an example of an engineering control that may eliminate respiratory hazards. Or, you can try to control the hazard administratively through scheduling: Work can be done when contaminants are not present in harmful quantities. If these fail, respirators may be used, but it’s critical you choose the correct respirator.

The first step in selecting a respirator is to perform an exposure assessment, which reveals the identity and nature of the hazard, as well as the expected level of exposure. The Material Safety Data Sheet is a great resource because it provides details on the substance and supply recommended or required for occupational exposure levels. Once the substance is identified, one can determine the levels present by sampling. This requires a worker to wear monitoring devices—and protective gear for the worst possible exposure—to collect the contaminants present.

An alternate method of determining the level of exposure is to use objective data assessments, which rely on estimates. One procedure is to estimate the amount of contaminant released in a room based on the substance’s physical and chemical properties, room dimensions, or air exchange rates. Another estimating procedure uses data collected from others performing the same type of work under similar conditions. Industry-wide surveys may be available from trade associations or studies by other safety organizations. When using data, allow for variation, look at worst-case scenarios, and ensure a safety factor is included in your estimates.

The Material Safety Data Sheet is a great resource because it provides details on the substance and supply recommended or required for occupational exposure levels.

Depending on the identity and nature of the material in question, you can determine if an air-supplying or air-purifying respirator is needed. Air-supplying respirators provide clean air to the user, and must be used when there is a lack of oxygen.

Air-purifying respirators use filters, cartridges, or canisters to clean air by passing air through the filtering device to remove the contaminants. There are three commonly used air-purifying respirators:

1. Particulate respirators remove particles such as dust, mist, and fumes.
2. Gas and vapor respirators use a chemical cartridge or canister to remove the dangerous substance from the air. The cartridge or canister used is specific to a given gas or vapor. Combination respirators should be used in situations that contain both harmful particulates and a dangerous gas or vapor.
3. Air-supplied respirators deliver clean air through a hose from a fixed source. The source may be a tank or clean air pumped along the hose from an area outside the work zone. A self-contained breathing apparatus allows the work to carry

the clean air in a wearable, clean-air supply pack.

Other factors influencing the respirator chosen are:

Physical Layout of the Site

For example, at a site where space is limited, the use of a self-contained breathing apparatus may not be the best choice due to the lack of space, even if it is otherwise a good choice. Also, if a worker moves machinery or something that could snag a hose, airline respirators are not a good choice either.

Worker Comfort

This is one of the most important factors in choosing a respirator. If the equipment is not comfortable, the worker may not use it. Respirators vary in weight, skin comfort, ease in breathing, and in-mask temperature and humidity.

Worker’s Medical Condition

Wearing a respirator increases a worker’s physical stress. Therefore, a medical evaluation of the worker is performed to determine if the worker should wear a respirator, or identify limitations on the type of respirator used. A worker who may have problems with restrictive breathing conditions should not wear a negative pressure respirator.

To increase hearing safety at your jobsite, consider NCMA’s Block Plant Safety software or Intec’s onsite consultation and training services. NCMA’s software costs \$150 per plant per year for members (nonmembers \$450). For more information call NCMA at 703-713-1900; contact Intec’s Joe O’Connor at 607-624-7159 or joconnor@intecweb.com.



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