

On the Level



Mason Contractors' Association, Inc. • Vol. 5, Spring-Summer 2005

MCA Supports Pending "Construction Performance Payment Bills" in Michigan Legislature

The Mason Contractors' Association (MCA) is a member of the Construction Coalition of Michigan (CCOM) that is working to get a Construction Performance Payment Bills (Prompt Pay legislation) passed in Michigan.

To date, two bills have been introduced in the Michigan Legislature in Lansing containing the legislation, Michigan House Bills 4509 and 4510. The bills are currently before the House Committee on Government Operations.

Michigan House Bills 4509 and 4510 are being sponsored by State Representative Daniel Acciavetti. MCA Members are urged to write Representative Acciavetti, giving their support for his bills. Letters should be addressed to: Representative Daniel Acciavetti, NO796 House Office Building, P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514. If you need a sample letter, please contact Joe Neussendorfer at the MCA office and one will be faxed to you.



Pictured above is Dennis Siekierski, President of the American Subcontractor's Association – Southeastern Michigan Chapter, who spoke at a recent MCA Contractors' meeting on the pending Prompt Pay bills.

J. R. Snyder, Sr., Masonry's Legend, Passes Away

The founder of the Masonry Institute of Michigan (MIM) and long-time organizer and leader of the Detroit Mason Contractors Association, James R. Snyder, Sr., 81, passed away on May 7, 2005 at his Detroit home. Mr. Snyder worked tirelessly to help create a better masonry construction industry that we could all be proud of. MCA, its Officers, Board of Directors and Staff, extends its heartfelt sympathy to the Snyder family.

Memorial contributions may be made to the "J. R. Snyder Memorial Scholarship Fund" and mailed to the Masonry Institute of Michigan, 12870 Farmington Road, Suite A, Livonia, Michigan 48150. For a complete tribute on Mr. Snyder go to the MIM website: <http://www.mim-online.org/news.html>



James R. Snyder, Sr.

MCA Observes 97 Years of Service To Southeastern Michigan's Masonry Industry

The Mason Contractors' Association (MCA) was founded in year 1908. This year, MCA is observing its 97th Anniversary. Over the years, MCA has become the oldest and largest construction association exclusively serving the business, industrial, educational and service needs of the masonry contracting industry in Southeastern Michigan. MCA's membership consists of mason contractors as well as those who provide support services to them. This includes materials producers, manufacturers and distributors as well as equipment and masonry-related businesses. MCA would like to thank all of the groups and individuals who have helped make MCA such a pre-eminent mason contractors' organization. Many groups, such as the Detroit Mason Contractors Association, have made significant historical contributions toward MCA's successful evolution. MCA offers a wide array of services to its members, among them: collective bargaining with the Laborers and Bricklayers Unions (Bricklayers Locals 1 and 9; and Laborers Locals 334 and 1076). Other services include educational programs, membership meetings, Sports Night Program, Detroit Tigers' Home Opener, golf outing, comprehensive safety programs, legislative news, masonry industry informational and industrial programs. If non-MCA members receiving this newsletter who are on our prospect list would like to join MCA, please contact the MCA Office at (734) 522-7350.

The Mason Contractors' Association gives special recognition to LABORERS' LOCALS #334 AND #1076 LABORERS-EMPLOYERS COOPERATION AND EDUCATION TRUST (LECET) FUND FOR SPONSORING THIS 97TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION OF ON THE LEVEL NEWSLETTER.

Walbridge Aldinger Company's Steve Morse at MCA General Membership Meeting



Steve Morse (at left) and MCA Past President and Director Chuck Costella, Monte Costella's Company (at right).

Walbridge Aldinger Company's Steve Morse gave a comprehensive presentation on MUST's new Safety Program at the Mason Contractors' Association's April 5, 2005 General Membership Meeting at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

MCA's Safety Committee Sponsors Scaffolding Programs



Pictured above is a recent week-long scaffolding program that was offered at the Laborers' Wayne, Michigan Training Facility.

The Mason Contractors' Association has an active Safety Committee chaired by Ned Niemi, Davenport Masonry. From time-to-time the Committee partners with Safway Services, Inc.'s Greg Allen to offer Scaffolding Safety Courses provided by Safway University.

Laborers' Locals 334 and 1076 Laborers and Employers Cooperation and Educational Trust Fund (LECET)

- Working with Owners, Developers, Contractors in Southeast Michigan.
- Co-sponsored Give 'em a Brake Promotional Ads
- Co-sponsored a Strategic Planning Initiative Plan to guide the Laborers (3) State of the Art Training funds for the future.
- Sponsored participation of its members in the Safe2Work and M.U.S.T. programs
- Co-sponsored the Greenfield Village restoration project.



MASTER MASONRY CALENDAR

September 21, 2005:
MCA Sport's Night "BOCCE NIGHT" at Club Venetian, Madison Heights, Michigan.

October 13, 2005:
MCA Contractors' Meeting at St. John's Conference Center, Plymouth, Michigan.

November 10, 2005:
MCA General Membership Meeting at Club Venetian, Madison Heights, Michigan.

December 1, 2005:
Masonry Institute of Michigan's Annual Meeting, The Olive Room, Greektown Casino, Detroit, Michigan.

December 9, 2005:
MCA Holiday Ball, at the Radisson Kingsley Hotel, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

SUPPORT YOUR MCA!

Piston's George Blaha at MCA Sports' Night



The "Voice of the Detroit Pistons" announcer George Blaha, center, was the featured speaker at MCA's Sports Night on September 15, 2004. Also pictured at left is MCA Office Manager Carol Burkhart and Gibraltar National/Spec-Mix Corporation's Jimmy D'Giovanni.

A Message From

James K. Hale

Mason Tenders Industry Steward, Laborers' Locals 334 and 1076



James K. Hale

Laborers' Union Developing a New State-Wide Apprenticeship Program

The State of Michigan Laborers' District Council and its Michigan Laborers' Training and Apprenticeship Institute is developing a new and comprehensive apprenticeship program for the entire state of Michigan. The program's "Standards of Apprenticeship" for the trade of Construction Craft Laborer were developed in cooperation with the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, U.S. Department of Labor. Scott H. McDonald is the program's Apprenticeship Coordinator. Mr. McDonald was the featured speaker at a recent Mason Contractors' Association Contractors Meeting, where he briefed our association's contractor members on the new program and passed out copies of the new program's documentation. Through the years, the job tasks performed by Construction Craft Laborers have increased to the level that mandatory training is necessary to insure that employers get safe, productive and efficient employees when they hire Laborers. Furthermore, many job tasks performed by Construction Craft Laborers that have traditionally been considered simple and requiring little skill have become more technical. When it comes to masonry, the role of Mason Tender has always been a critically important skill for mason con-

tractors. So much so, that the Mason Contractors' Association has a Mason Tenders Agreement with the Laborers' International Union of North America AFL-CIO, Michigan Laborers' District Council Local Union 334 and Local Union 1076. The current Mason Tender's Agreement runs until June 30, 2006. Participants in the Construction Craft Laborer apprenticeship program are required to attend 400 hours of classroom training in addition to 4000 hours of on-the-job training. Classroom training takes place at the Michigan Laborers' Training and Apprenticeship Institute. There are three state-of-the-art MLTAI facilities that trainees may choose to attend. An initial 16-hour class is mandatory for all apprentices, and is the only training that requires the apprentice to miss work. However, apprentices must find the time to attend 100 hours of classroom training for every 1000 hours of on-the-job training. In the event the apprentice does not have enough down time to attend the training, the employer may be asked to allow them the time off. Apprentices that do not complete 100 hours of training during each



Michigan Laborers' Training and Apprenticeship Institute Director Scott McDonald (left) and James K. Hale, Mason Tenders Industry Steward, Locals 334 and 1076 (right).

1000 hours of work will not advance to the next stage of the program. Employers should strongly encourage apprentices to sign up for classes during periods of lay-off. MCA is proud to be associated with this new apprenticeship program that will bring deserved professionalism and recognition for our Mason Tenders. In closing, I would like to congratulate Laborers' Local 334 and 1076 Officers on winning reelection to their union leadership positions.

A Message From

Ray Chapman

President and Business Manager of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Union, Local #1 of Michigan as well as JATC Chairperson



Ray Chapman

Bricklayers Local #1 MCA Update

The summer of 2005 has not started as well as I wish it would have, but is much better than this time last year. The weather has changed for the good, and hopefully the economy will be cooperating as well.

The apprentice school is in full operation and all eligible apprentices are working at this time.

Two years ago we became involved with an apprentice exchange program with Ireland. Last year, Local 1 sent apprentice Brett Giesak (who was working with Liedal & Hart Mason Contrac-

tors at the time). We are extremely proud of Brett. He has been an outstanding candidate and spokesperson for Local 1 and our contractors.

This year apprentice Nate Nestor from Daventry Masonry will be working in Dublin, Ireland, from May 30th to July 16th. In return, Irish apprentice Brian Walsh will be working with Liedal & Hart on Whitmore Lake High School from May 1, 2005 to July 20, 2005. We wish the best to both candidates. We are hoping this program will be an ongoing event. It is an excellent learning opportunity for both apprentices as well as the two different training programs and contractors.

IMI has completed the Eastern Michigan University graduate program in Historic Preservation.

In only its second year for the GHP 636 field school class. The purpose of this course is to introduce a variety of preservation and conservation techniques. Classes were held at Bay View, which is considered by many to be the best remaining 19th century resort community in Michigan.

The sessions were engaging and very informative. The program has served to raise the students' awareness and appreciation for Union contractors and Craftworkers as well as viewing restoration as an extremely rewarding masonry experience. Comments from students and instructors were well received.

Mason Contractors' Association, Inc. Begins 97th Year of Service; 2005 Officers & Directors Announced

The Mason Contractors' Association (MCA), established in 1908, begins its 97th year of service to the masonry contracting industry in southeastern Michigan in 2005.



In the photograph above, seated from left to right, are Secretary and Director John Robovitsky, Robovitsky Inc.; President and Director Brad Leidal, Leidal & Hart Mason Contractors; Vice-President and Director Steve Dudek, Navetta Mason Contractors; and Treasurer and Director Kevin Ryan, Masonry Developers Inc. Standing from left to right, is Director Dan Tollis, Baro Contracting Inc.; Director Chuck Costella, Monte Costella & Company; Director Ed Davenport, Davenport Masonry; and Director Tony Giannola, Giannola Masonry. Not pictured is Tom Nowak, RC Nowak & Company.

Navetta Mason Contractors Moves to New Offices in Brighton, Michigan



Pictured above is Navetta Mason Contractors new office building at 12264 Emerson Drive, Brighton, Michigan. The company's telephone number is (248) 486-6258 and their fax number is (248) 486-9165.



A sharp brick sculpture of the company's late founder Michael Navetta greets visitors to the new office building.

MCA's 2005 Personnel Luncheon Highlight

MCA's 2005 Contractor Personnel Luncheon to keep our members' office personnel up to date on MCA was held at Merriweathers Restaurant in Southfield, Michigan recently. The annual event is organized by MCA's Office Manager Carol Burkhart.



Pictured above are Jaya Wilson and Kathy Shepard from Monte Costella & Company and other ladies from MCA contractor member companies.



MCA Members Support "Toys For Tots"

A sharply uniformed contingent of U.S. Marines were present at MCA's 2004 Holiday Ball to receive new Christmas presents from MCA members for the Marine's annual "Toys For Tots" gift program for deserving youngsters.



MCA Holiday Ball Roaring 1920s Snapshot



Really getting into the spirit of MCA's 2004 Holiday Ball: Pictured (left to right) are attendees Susan Costella, Minnie Johnson, Mary Kittle and Jaya Wilson.



The President's Message:

By Brad Leidal

When talking to people about joining the MCA I'm asked, why should I join? What do I get out of belonging to an association? I've also found that some members don't realize the benefits their membership offers. I'm reminded of an advertising slogan, "Membership has its advantages." MCA membership offers more than a golf outing, holiday ball and a few meetings a year. While those events provide an excellent opportunity for fraternization and networking, that is only a small part of what your association does. The MCA is aggressively pursuing an agenda of keeping its members informed, educated and represented in the issues that affect our industry. Committees covering areas such as safety and education have been providing the membership with classes on scaffold training and MUST safety modules. The MCA represents its contractor members on three fringe benefit funds, sits on the bricklayer and mason tender apprenticeship committees and is a recognized bargaining arm with four different labor unions. Regular dialog meetings with Locals 1, 9, 334 and 1076

keeps the lines of communication open between labor and management. The MCA office itself is a resource for members to utilize. With over 25 years experience in construction associations, MCA Executive Director Joe Neussendorfer can provide direction to member's questions regarding business issues or problems.

Speakers at the general membership and contractor meetings have provided information on a variety of topics ranging from Lien Laws, the MUST program, insurance and surety bonding. Unfortunately time constraints usually only allow the speakers to cover an overview of their topics. Beginning this summer the MCA will begin offering seminars so members can get more in depth information on topics pertinent to our industry. The classes in development are on contract law, change orders, scheduling and profitability. These opportunities are being offered for the benefit of all of our members, contractors and affiliates. As most of us have seen firsthand, the Masonry Institute of Michigan does a tremendous job provid-

ing this type of education in the technical areas of the masonry craft. It is the objective of the MCA to provide management education programs at the same standard of excellence set by MIM.

Another area the MCA is pursuing is in the legislative arena. The MCA has partnered with the American Subcontractors Association to push for passage of the prompt pay act. MCA is working with MIOSHA as a member of the Masonry Industry Safety Alliance. While as a non-profit organization the MCA cannot support or endorse candidates for election, we will stay informed on issues and the positions candidates take in regards to our industry so our membership can make educated decisions at election time.

While the MCA has a long history, going back to 1908, of being a voice for

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Brad Leidal
MCA President

MCA Executive Director's Message

By Joe Neussendorfer

MCA Built Its Reputation One Member at a Time

Since 1908, the Mason Contractors' Association has built a reputable and value-driven organization dedicated to the business needs of our area's masonry industry **one member company at a time**. Each and every company that belongs to this Association is extremely important to MCA's mission. When an individual member company has an industry problem, that problem generally is also being encountered by other member companies. That is why MCA is quick and deliberative when it comes to addressing those problems that are brought to its attention by our member companies. Right now, the masonry contracting industry in Southeastern Michigan is plagued by many problems, a great number of them pegged to the depressed construction marketplace.

It is very easy to fall back and complain about the current sorry state of things. However, no progress is made that way. Of necessity we have to look at these problems as opportunities to change things for the better. Things **will** get better! In the meantime, we hope that all Mason Contractors' Association members will utilize the many services offered by the Association. A simple, first step is to make sure that the MCA logo is proudly displayed in your office reception area. Also, use every chance you can get in the field or at construction industry events to "talk up" the value of MCA's service. You may also refer your business associates, and those that are interested in MCA, to the Association's website: www.mcamichigan.org.

In just three more years, the Mason Contractors' Association will be 100 years old. We are working to make the Association even stronger with that centennial goal in mind.



Joe Neussendorfer
MCA Executive Director

On the Level

If you have a press release or news item for our newsletter, please send it to Editor Joe Neussendorfer, c/o MCA, 12870 Farmington Rd., Suite B, Livonia, Michigan 48150. Fax: (734) 522-7350, e-mail: jneussmca@ameritech.net.

Great Construction Dictionary Site

If you are having a problem defining a construction term or word, you might want to check out this web site: www.rsmeans.com/dictionary.

This is a great information site for MCA Member Company office staffs and secretaries to use.

Great Masonry Resource Website

Don't forget to visit the new national masonry industry website at www.masonrysystems.org. It has a wealth of information about our industry and many useful and informative computer links.

The President's Message:

(Continued from page 5)

business issues in the Michigan construction industry, we cannot look back. As an association, and as an industry, we need to look forward as we are presented with new challenges and opportunities. As we have seen too many times, unlike mechanical and electrical trades, masonry does not need to be in a building. Metal studs, EIFS, tilt-up concrete, brick embedded pre-cast, have chipped away at our market share. Labor, management and suppliers have a mutually dependent relationship. It will take a united effort by all of us, including associations and institutes, to keep masonry being designed and units being put in the wall. Going back to the question of what do you get out of belonging to an association? The answer is a stronger, smarter masonry industry.

Voice 734.522.7350
Fax 734.522.7435
www.mcamichigan.org

Address Service Requested

12870 Farmington Road
Suite B
Livonia, MI 48150-1603

MASON CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

