

On the Level



Mason Contractors' Association, Inc. • Vol. 4, Summer-Fall 2004

Ground Broken and Construction of New Navetta Mason Contractors, Inc. Headquarters Building Moves Forward



TRIBUTE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY: Donna Navetta (center) breaks ground for the new home of Navetta Mason Contractors, Inc. Steve Dudek (left) and Laurie Dudek (right) join in the spadework. Big Mike Navetta's presence was felt at the ceremony.



GROUNDBREAKING PARTY: Friends, customers & business associates join in the groundbreaking revelry.



HAPPY DAY: The weather was a bit brisk but the fellowship and tent reception were warm as Steve and Laurie Dudek launched their company's new home-site.

Longtime MCA Contractor Member Company Navetta Mason Contractors, Inc. has broken ground for their company's future home located at 12264 Emerson Road, Brighton, Michigan. The date selected for the groundbreaking ceremony and festive reception was November 15, the birthdate of the company's late founder Michael Navetta, a dedicated masonry industry leader and champion. The company's current President is Steve Dudek, MCA's Vice President.

Increased Building Market Share & Support of Signatory Contractors Are Laborers' Priority

The Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) has made building market share for Laborers and its employers a top priority. "It is the key to the future of our great international union, but it is also the key to a successful future for our employers and our industry," said LIUNA General President Terrence M. O'Sullivan. He went on to say: "We know that unions face some unique challenges in the years ahead. But our signatory contractors face challenges just as great as ours. Too often, they find themselves competing against unscrupulous competitors who care little for quality, safety, benefits, or training, and who underbid them in a vicious race to the bottom. Laborers and our signatory contractors are allies in a battle to define our industry: will it be one in which skilled workers and professional contractors provide high quality construction at competitive rates? Or

will it be an industry of ever-shrinking wages, piecemeal training, high accident rates, and shoddy craftsmanship? Increasing our market share is critical to ensuring that our vision for this industry prevails. The Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust (LECET) is our

single most powerful tool for building market share. It brings labor and management together to pursue this common goal, and it makes Laborers and employers true partners: walking together when we can, bargaining when we must, but never forgetting our shared destiny."

WE SALUTE LABORERS' LOCAL 334'S LECET FUND FOR SPONSORING THIS ISSUE OF OUR NEWSLETTER

Special "thanks" goes out to Laborers' Local #334's Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust (LECET) for sponsoring the entire Summer-Fall 2004 issue of our newsletter *On the Level*.

SPORTS DAY TIGER GAME ROARING SUCCESS

MCA's Social Committee scored another successful event with the MCA Sports Day program at the new Comerica Park on May 14, 2004. The program featured a Detroit Tigers game, great buffet, family fun and fireworks. Thanks to Bill Barker from St. Mary's Cement and MCA Office Manager Carol Burkhart for



FATHER & SON: Pictured at the MCA Sports Day Tiger Game was Masonpro's Scott Hillebrand and his son Adam Hillebrand.



GREAT TIME: MCA Members and their Guests had a wonderful time at the ballpark. Good food, fun, and fellowship was the menu for the successful event.

lining up the event sponsorships. The sponsors were Lincoln Brick & Stone, Lafarge Corporation, Grand Blanc Cement Products, Theut Products, Inc., Brighton Block & Concrete, Superior Materials Co., Inc., Masonpro Inc., Cloverdale Equipment Co., National Block, St. Mary's Cement, Essroc Cement Corp., Gibraltar National Corp., Holcim (US) Inc., Cemex, Inc., Belden Brick Sales Co., Fendt Builders Supply and Schuster Construction Services. Everyone attending had a great time at the new ballpark.



2004 MCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Seated (front row left to right) Vice President Steve Dudek, Navetta Mason Contractors; President Chuck Costella, Monte Costella & Company; Secretary John Robovitsky, Robovitsky Inc. Standing (left to right) Director Tom Nowak, RC Nowak & Company; Director Tony Giannola, Giannola Masonry; Treasurer Brad Leidal, Leidal & Hart Mason Contractors; Director Dan Tollis, Baro Contracting, Inc.; and Director Kevin Ryan, Masonry Developers, Inc. Not pictured is Director Ed Davenport, Davenport Masonry.

STORK REPORT

During the March 18, 2004 MCA Contractors Meeting, the Mason Contractors' Association was pleased to give Honorary Memberships to our newest arrivals: Gabriella, Brandon and Justin Dixon. Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Dixon, of Dixon, Inc., were proud to announce the birth of their triplets on September 14, 2003. Most recently, MCA member Mr. & Mrs. Brad Leidal, of Leidal & Hart Mason Contractors, were also blessed with their new arrival, Brett Donald, born on July 18, 2004.



Our neighbor, Masonry Institute of Michigan Office Manager Michelle and husband, Jake Heitz, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Trent Daniel, born July 26, 2004. Congratulations to everyone and also to Grandpa Don Leidal and Grandpa Dan Zechmeister!

struction Industry. In his remarks, he challenged the masonry industry to seize such promotional opportunities as the high cost of steel. "Users of construction services are wary about making new investments, and that has put many projects on hold. To get them to decide to construct new facilities, or renovate existing ones, we must stand up and show the owners all possible options," he said in his remarks. Bricklayers Apprenticeship Coordinator Jack Love gave MCA members an update on the bricklayers apprenticeship program and urged all signatory contractors to visit the apprenticeship school in Warren,

**An Innovative Partnership
to Strengthen Union
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Management and Laborers' Local 334
Working Together

MCA April 6th Contractors' Meeting Features CAM President & JATC Director

The Mason Contractors' Association's April 6th meeting at the Best Western Sterling Inn Banquet Center featured two excellent speakers, CAM President Kevin Koehler, and Bricklayers Local #1 Joint Apprenticeship Training Program Coordinator, Jack Love. Mr. Koehler delivered a resounding speech calling for the Urgent Need for Leadership in the con-

struction Industry. In his remarks, he challenged the masonry industry to seize such promotional opportunities as the high cost of steel. "Users of construction services are wary about making new investments, and that has put many projects on hold. To get them to decide to construct new facilities, or renovate existing ones, we must stand up and show the owners all possible options," he said in his remarks. Bricklayers Apprenticeship Coordinator Jack Love gave MCA members an update on the bricklayers apprenticeship program and urged all signatory contractors to visit the apprenticeship school in Warren,

Michigan for a first-hand tour of the training facilities.



CAM PRESIDENT Kevin Koehler challenged the construction industry to seize opportunities.



BRICKLAYERS' Apprenticeship Coordinator Jack Love speaking at MCA meeting.

A Message From James K. Hale

Mason Tenders Industry Steward, Laborers' Locals 334 and 1076



James K. Hale

THANK YOU LOCAL 334

MCA would like to thank the members and leaders of Detroit Laborers Local 334 for sponsoring this issue of the MCA Newsletter. We salute you for your outstanding contributions.

Laborers' Local 1076 Business Manager Robert D. Chwalek Retires

Robert D. Chwalek, Michigan Laborers' District Council President and Business Manager of Laborers' Local 1076 recently retired after life-long service to his union. MCA President Chuck Costella presented a service plaque to Mr. Chwalek at his retirement party. MCA's plaque read: "In appreciation of faithful service and dedication to the Masonry / Labor-Management Collective Bargaining Process. Man is nothing if not remembered for his good works."

James K. Hale, Mason Tenders Industry Steward, also presented a Mason Tenders service plaque to Mr. Chwalek for his services to the Laborers' movement. The plaque read: "Robert "Red" Chwalek who lead the way and set forth the future course for the Laborers' unions. The Mason Tenders raise our shovels and salute you."



RETIRING LABORERS' UNION OFFICIAL BOB CHWALEK (center) received service award plaques from MCA President Chuck Costella (left) and Mason Tenders Industry Steward Jim Hale (right).

A Message From Ray Chapman

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

Bricklayers' Local 1 Holds "Michigan Construction Week" Open House on April 26th; IMI Gives Comprehensive Update on Education/Research Efforts



Ray Chapman

Bricklayers' Local 1 held a successful "Open House" on April 26, 2004, at the BAC/IMI Training Center located at 21031 Ryan Road, Warren, Michigan. The event was held in conjunction with "Michigan Construction Week" that ran from April 26 through April 30. The Open House featured a buffet luncheon, tours of the Bricklayers' Apprenticeship School and program updates by representatives from the International Masonry Institute (IMI). Representing IMI at the event were Larry Darling and Peter Loughney. All Mason Contractors' Association members have a standing invitation to visit the Bricklayer's Apprenticeship School on their own. To arrange a tour and presentation, please call BAC Local 1 first at (586) 754-0888.



MICHIGAN CONSTRUCTION WEEK: Pictured above are Bricklayers' Local 1 President Ray Chapman (left) and International Masonry Institute's Larry Darling (right). A large turnout of visitors attended Local 1's Open House and Education Program Update on April 26th.

MCA's Annual Golf Outing Highlights



REFRESHMENT CARTS AWAY: MCA Mason Tenders Industry Steward Jim Hale (at steering wheel) is flanked by his volunteers (at left) Rick Williams, Business Agent at Laborers' Local 334 and Elizabeth Thoman. At his right is Lytreshia Norfleet.

MCA's Annual Golf Outing was held on July 20, 2004 at Bay Pointe Golf Club in West Bloomfield, Michigan. The Association's Golf Committee once again pulled off another flawless event. The weather cooperated, the fellowship was great and the dinner and prizes were exceptional. Thanks to Frenchie Costella, Jim Gendron and Ernie Thomas who shopped for the fantastic prizes. Bob Rensi worked hard in distributing and retrieving the golf sponsorship signs. Jim Hale and his guests did a super job of running the beer carts. Many thanks for the golf sponsor signs. Sponsors were: Alpha Foam, Baro contracting, Bank One, Belden Brick, Best Block, Brighton Block, Cemex, Fendt, Giannola Masonry, Gibraltar National/Spec-Mix Corp., Glass Block Sales, Hicks Masonry, International Masonry Institute, Bricklayers' Local 1 JATC Apprenticeship School, Lafarge Corp., Bricklayers' Local 1, Laborers' Local 1076, Masonpro, Masonry Developers, Monte Costella & Co., National Block, Navetta Masonry, Safway, Schuster Construction Services, St. Mary's Cement, Superior Materials, United Rentals (2 signs), and Williams Products.



MCA GOLF OUTING GREETERS: (Left to right): MCA President Chuck Costella, MCA Office Manager Carol Burkhart, Frank Soave, Elizabeth Thoman, and Jim Hale.

MCA Holiday Ball Filled with Hula & Aloha Spirit; Members Support Toys for Tots & Adopt-A-Family Causes



NEWEST MCA CONTRACTOR MEMBER: Signing up for Membership at the Golf Outing were Jim King (seated) and his father, Bob King, of King Masonry, Inc.



MCA President Chuck Costella presented \$200 gift to Volunteers of America's recipient, Misty Welling-Combs.



MCA Treasurer Brad Leidal greets Livonia Mayor Jack Engebretsen and Livonia's First Lady Seni Engebretsen.



TOYS FOR TOTS: MCA Office Manager Carol Burkhart with Corporal Bryan Melewski from the United States Marine Corps who accepted the toys donated by MCA Members upon arriving at the event.



MCA President Chuck Costella presents MCA Service Award to outgoing Board Member Ron Baker.



DELICIOUS FOOD GALORE: MCA's Golf Outing featured a scrumptious grilled cookout luncheon featuring hamburgers, hot dogs and all of the fixings. The event was capped off with a delicious dinner and prizes galore.

The Mason Contractors' Association is known for its hard work in serving the masonry industry in South-eastern Michigan. But that doesn't mean that there isn't time for a good holiday party! On December 13, 2004, the MCA Social Committee put on an outstanding Hawaiian Christmas Holiday Ball at Livonia's Burton Manor. Participating in the holiday affair was the City of Livonia's newly elected Mayor Jack Engebretsen and Livonia's First Lady Seni Engebretsen. MCA members and guests brought new toys to the party and presented them to Corporal Bryan Melewski of the United States Marine Corps who was stationed at the door to receive the presents for needy children. During the event, MCA President Chuck Costella presented a \$200 gift to the Volunteers of America's "Adopt-A-Family" program. Acknowledging the gift at the event was recipient Misty Welling-Combs from Volunteers of America. MCA would like to thank all of the Social Committee members and support team who helped make the 2003 Holiday Ball such a success.



The President's Message:

By Charles Costella

MIOSHA Construction Safety Director Guest Speaker at MCA Contractor Meeting



The new Director of MIOSHA's Construction Safety and Health Division, Robert Pawlowski, (left) shakes the hand of MCA President Chuck Costella at MCA's March 18, 2004 Contractor's Meeting at the Fox & Hounds Restaurant in Bloomfield Hills. Mr. Pawlowski was the meeting's guest speaker and he addressed the new MIOSHA reorganization.

Latest Masonry Craft Developments Being Studied

Do you have questions regarding the Masonry Industry? Specifically in regard to brick, block, stone, plaster or restoration? As a recommendation of the B.A.C. Apprentice and Training Taskforce, a curriculum development process for these craft questions has been formed. The International Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Union has recently joined with the International Masonry Institute to form Craft Committees consisting of both Labor and Management representatives. Curriculum developments were outlined for brick, block, stone, plaster, and restoration committees. Labor and Management representatives were geographically chosen in diverse groups and were called upon for their knowledge and expertise in their respective crafts. The committees drafted outlines for the individual crafts in order to obtain information on the latest new developments happening in each craft group. Each craft group will be reviewed by the committees on a regular basis to help improve the quality of our industry in these specific areas. Please contact the MCA Office with any questions or problems we can present to the Craft Committees for their review at their August 26 and 27, 2004 meetings.



Charles Costella
MCA President

New National Masonry Promotion Website Being Developed

The Mason Contractors' Association's Board of Directors approved a \$1,000 contribution to MCAA for the development of a new "Masonry Systems.Org" campaign to promote masonry as a system (to counter the tilt-up and precast presentations using a systems approach). The funds will be used to support a national advertising campaign promoting masonry as well as a new national website, www.masonrysystems.org. MCA's Executive Director Joe Neussendorfer attended a recent meeting in Chicago on the campaign and was asked to write a section on the new website entitled "Why Masonry?" The campaign and website are scheduled to get underway at the end of this year.

MCA Executive Director's Message

By Joe Neussendorfer

MCA Executive Director's Message

The Mason Contractors' Association remains continually committed to promoting construction site safety programs. We know that safe jobsites are more profitable and reduce your overall insurance costs. Since becoming your executive director, I have made a personal and professional commitment to the Association membership to constantly keep construction safety on everyone's radar screens. The "Safe2Work Program" is a case example. Your Association's Safety Committee has provided outstanding safety speakers at MCA Contractor and General Membership Meetings. The Committee has also provided construction scaffolding and forklift safety training for the membership.

In 2004, with the help of the MCA Safety Committee, your association has accomplished the following construction safety activities:

—Invited the new MIOSHA Construction Safety Director Bob Pawlowski to an MCA Contractors Meeting.

—Forged a partnership with Wayne State University to offer "Safe2Work Program" modules testing at no cost to MCA Contractor Members.

—Is planning a "Safeway University" Scaffolding safety program this coming fall at the Laborers' Wayne, Michigan Training Center (watch your future mail/fax machine for details).

—Continues to answer important safety questions called in from the MCA membership.

—Participated in a two-day masonry ergonomics conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. Information on preventing ergonomic injuries and silicosis controls was brought back and made available to the MCA Safety Committee.

The "bottom line" here is that if MCA and its Safety Committee can help your company avoid jobsite injuries and fatalities, then it is all worth the effort that your Association is putting into these safety programs. If you would like to know more about MCA's commitment to construction safety or would like to serve on MCA's Safety Committee, please give me a call at the MCA Office.



Joe Neussendorfer
MCA Executive Director

2004 Master Masonry Calendar

The following calendar items are from the Mason Contractors' Association (MCA); the International Masonry Institute (IMI); and the Masonry Institute of Michigan (MIM).

September 15, 2004: MCA Sport's Night, Italian-American Banquet Center, Livonia.
Speaker: George Blaha, Voice of Detroit Pistons.

October 14, 2004: MCA Contractor Meeting, Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel, Novi.

October 28, 2004: MIM "M-Day" Program, Embassy Suites, Livonia.

November 16, 2004: MCA General Membership Meeting, Radisson Kingsley Hotel, Bloomfield Hills.

December 2, 2004: MIM's Annual Meeting, Greektown Casino, Detroit.

December 11, 2004: MCA Annual Holiday Ball, Antheneum Banquet Center, Detroit.

MCA Members Hit Community Outreach "Home Run" Doing Stoney Creek High School Masonry Baseball Field Dugouts

When the community calls, MCA Members respond with their help and assistance. One instance is the recent new masonry baseball dugouts for Stoney Creek High School in Rochester, Michigan. MCA Board of Directors Member Kevin Ryan, Masonry Developers, Inc. has a friend, Charles Hebert, who has a son, Charlie, who attends Stoney Creek High School. Charlie, who has the early makings of either a promising engineer or architect, came up with some designs for new dugouts that he knew his school



THE MASONRY BOYS OF SUMMER: Present at the opening of the new masonry baseball dugouts at Stoney Creek High School in Rochester, Michigan, were (from left to right) Joe Neussendorfer from MCA; Gary Lowell, Superior Materials Co., Inc.; Charles Hebert, CPA; designer Charlie Hebert, Stoney Creek High School student; MCA Board Member Kevin Ryan, Masonry Developers, Inc.; and Chris Kissick, Superior Materials Co., Inc. Not present for photograph was Jim "Rock" Weinrauch, Gibraltar National Corporation/SpecMix, who worked with the project team by donating mortar and his expertise.

needed. Only problem was: Charlie had the vision and plans for the dugout, but lacked the resources to bring his idea into reality. Enter MCA Board Member Kevin Ryan. Charlie's father mentioned young Charlie's dream and wondered if Kevin might help. "Yes," Kevin enthusiastically responded and he moved forward in enlisting other MCA Members who provided support, namely, Superior Materials, Co., Inc. who donated the masonry building materials; Gibraltar National Corporation/SpecMix who donated all of the mortar; and Masonry Developers, Inc., who donated masonry contractor services. The new masonry dugouts are now up and being used. Great job, MCA Members!

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MASON CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

