

MASONRY MATTERS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NEBRASKA MASONRY ALLIANCE

Promoting masonry as the building material of choice, educating designers on the proper methods of masonry design and construction, developing skilled masons to fill our workforce, and providing technical assistance for masonry design and construction.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Serving Design Community PAGE 1

Message from the President PAGE 2

Don Littler Award

NMA Hires Exec. Director

UNL Partnerships

Learning Opportunities

Meet our Board Members

Proud Members

Future of Masonry

Upcoming Events

PAGE 3

PAGE 4



Featured image is the 2022 Don Littler Excellence in Masonry Design Award Recipient. See page 2 for more details.

NEBRASKA MASONRY ALLIANCE: SERVING THE DESIGN COMMUNITY SINCE 2016

NMA is passionate about masonry and thankful for you. It's because of you, NMA was formed in 2016 to make masonry better in our state by representing every facet of the masonry industry. We understand the need to work with the architectural community to produce innovative and cutting-edge design, to improve education and skills development for masons, and to enhance safety training for both masons and the industry as a whole. We know our members, you, are our most valuable asset as we work toward these goals. It's because of you, our community is rich with masonry structures that are safe, sustainable, and versatile, but even more so, beautiful.

At NMA, we are dedicated to bridging the gap between masons, suppliers, and designers through educational opportunities. With this in mind, we were elated to co-host the North American Masonry Conference June 9–14, 2023, in partnership with the Durham School of Architectural Engineering and Construction at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). Sponsored by the Masonry Society, the conference boasted vibrant social events, exciting technical and site-seeing tours, world-class keynote speakers and presenters, innovative technology sessions, exhibits and more! (Continued on page 4)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – LISA LACKOVIC

My love of masonry was instilled at a young age through my grandfather and father's involvement in the concrete block industry. You could say masonry is in my bones. I have been honored to serve as your President of the Nebraska Masonry Alliance for the past two years.

As you know, NMA was formed in 2016 to unite masonry product producers, suppliers, and mason contractors to expand market share. We continue to focus on educating design professionals, providing technical assistance with the help of our experienced engineering resource, Donald W. Harvey, JR., P.E. of Atkinson-Noland & Associates (a great member benefit – contact any board member for information), and opening lines of communication with the design community.

2023 brought forth an exciting partnership with TradeGamz to gain exposure and engage more young people in the masonry industry. I encourage you to download the TradeGamz app today! Thanks to the Kehm Contractors, Inc. crew and Three Pillars Media, we dove deeper into one of the most crucial elements of a masonry wall, Flashing, with the production of a new video. It will be a great tool when discussing “behind the wall” issues. You can view it on the NMA website, nebraskamasonryalliance.org, and Facebook page. Finally, after four years with no Executive Director, I am pleased Kathy Rourm has joined our team. She will be a great resource as we move forward together.

I am also pleased to share, over 10 years in the making, the Concrete Masonry Checkoff program is finally a reality! NMA will apply in 2024 for funding and we welcome your input. Focus areas include design assistance, codes, and standards, educating design professionals, education and research, marketing and promotion, and workforce development. Projects must benefit our entire region. If you have an idea to share, reach out to Kathy Rourm at kathy@nebraskamasonryalliance.org.

As my term comes to an end, I have truly enjoyed working with you and getting to know my customers and constituents better through NMA. I am always impressed by the pride and passion mason contractors exude. Yes, they love to work with their hands and outdoors, despite the extreme Nebraska weather, but what I have learned most from my involvement in NMA, is mason contractors are creative, intelligent people who love to build beautiful buildings that last forever. Churches, schools, hospitals...these are their legacies, and I am honored to be part of such great accomplishments. Thank you for your membership and support and I look forward to a prosperous new year!



Best regards,

Lisa Lackovic, NMA President

NMA HIRES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Kathy Rourm,
NMA Executive Director

NMA is pleased to announce the appointment of Kathy Rourm as Executive Director. Rourm comes to NMA with more than 28 years working in the non-profit sector including seven years in the construction industry at Habitat for Humanity of Omaha where she led 7 Builder's Blitz events: building a block of houses in one week with the help of the construction/trades industry. She has a wealth of experience in business development, strategic planning, management and training, team building and financial acumen.

Kathy would love to meet with NMA members! Reach out to her directly at kathy@nebraskamasonryalliance.org.

"We are thrilled to have Kathy as part of our team. We have a lot going on as a construction industry association and her experience is invaluable to our organization. She will help us move forward with our mission and goals of promoting masonry and being a resource to the Nebraska design community."

– Lisa Lackovic, NMA President.

CONGRATULATIONS!

2022 DON LITTLER EXCELLENCE IN
MASONRY DESIGN AWARD

WINNERS: CLARK & ENERSEN
Farm Credit Services of America Corp. HQ

Winning design is spotlighted on newsletter cover.



Winners Pictured: Kent Munster,
Aaron Hartung, Jeff Chadwick,
Blake Thomas, and Lisa Lackovic –
NMA President

UNL ARCHITECTURE & ENGINEERING PARTNERSHIPS



UNL College of Architectural Engineering & Construction

The Masonry/Timber Class Design Competition took place in May and NMA was part of the judging panel. Students were tasked with creating a design based on general program requirements. The Pharoah Engineering team (pictured left) won first place with a design of NMA Headquarters complete with rooftop deck and coffee shop as well as an outdoor showroom. Each team member received a \$500 scholarship. In addition to sponsoring scholarships, NMA assisted with the cost of masonry code books by providing \$2,256 in funding. This funding was made possible by you and the NMA Endowment Fund. Thank you for caring about the future of masonry!



UNL College of Architecture

Fourth year UNL Architectural students toured Reimers Kaufman Concrete Products in the Spring as part of their educational journey in masonry. UNL Professor Jason Griffiths' students rotated through three stations: a block plant tour, a hands-on learning opportunity, and an educational seminar. The event wrapped up with each student submitting a design with masonry and three winners were awarded a total of \$3,000 from NMA.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

AIA Conference NMA took part in the annual AIA Conference, September 27 -28, 2023 at the Scott Conference Center in Omaha by hosting a booth and networking with architects.

NEBCO/NMA Lunch and Learn NMA was honored to partner with NEBCO in September by co-hosting Lunch and Learn events in Omaha and Lincoln featuring David Karle, Program Director of Architecture at UNL.

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS

Lisa Lackovic, President - Endicott Clay Products Company

Shawn Kolterman, Vice President - Kehm Contractors

Dustin Windhorst, Secretary - Midwest Masonry, Inc.

Fernando Gutierrez, Treasurer - K&K Masonry, Inc.

Christy Fitzgerald - Kearney Crete & Block Company

Jeff MacTaggart - Jeff MacTaggart Masonry

Lee Peacock - TCC Materials

Linda Potter - Hohmann & Barnard

Katie Bugbee - Watkins Concrete Block Company/
Reimers Kaufman Concrete Products

PROUD MEMBERS

Nebraska Masonry Alliance is only as good as its members. Together we are stronger. Together our voices are heard. Together we can create change. Thank you to these members below for your commitment to NMA, to masonry, and to working together to ensure the future of the industry is bright.

Artisan Stone Company

Ash Grove Cement

Ash Grove Packaging Corporation

Elite Distribution

Endicott Clay Products Company

Glen-Gery Corporation

Hohmann & Barnard

Irwin Equipment

Jeff MacTaggart Masonry

K&K Masonry, Inc.

Kearney Crete & Block Company

Kehm Contractors

Masonry Precast Specialty Services

Midwest Masonry, Inc.

Nauslar Construction, Inc.

Reimers Kaufman Concrete Products

Seedorff Masonry, Inc.

Steinwart Sales Corporation

T. Hansen Construction

TCC Materials

Thiele Geotech, Inc.

Thompson Masonry

Thunn Construction, Inc.

U-Mix Products

Watkins Concrete Block Company

Yankee Hill Brick & Tile

NEBRASKA MASONRY ALLIANCE: SERVING THE DESIGN COMMUNITY SINCE 2016

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

NMA board members provided tours of brew pubs in the Old Market, including Brickway Brewery and Distillery. Board Vice President, Shawn Kolterman (Kehm Contractors, Inc.), facilitated a panel discussion on the Future of Masonry. In addition, a plant tour of Watkins Concrete Block Company, Inc. was provided to attendees followed by food, refreshments, and a tequila tasting by Shawn. It was an amazing conference, and we hope to host it again in the future.

In the coming year, NMA will strive to be a more visible resource for you with learning opportunities, and technical assistance to help you stay ahead of the latest trends and techniques in our industry. We will also focus on workforce development to ensure the masonry industry continues to attract qualified, hard-working, and well-trained young professionals. Please reach out to Kathy Roun at kathy@nebraskamasonryalliance.org or 402-968-2503 if NMA can be of service to you.



THE FUTURE OF MASONRY

Skills USA Competition

Joseph Strawn, State Champion at the Nebraska Skills USA Competition, was awarded \$2,000 from NMA to cover travel expenses to attend the Skills USA National Championship in Atlanta, GA. Joseph is a sophomore at Papillion South High School. His check was presented by Jeremy Ramsey of Watkins Concrete Block. (Photo to left)



TradeGamz

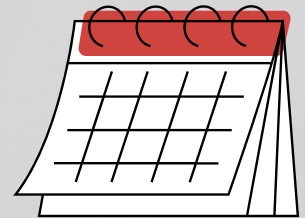
NMA is proud to partner with TradeGamz. Forming a network of professionals, educators, and students sharing career-related insight, TradeGamz helps students identify career interests and find their path to success.

NMA will help promote the masonry industry through video and photo content. We want to share your videos and photos! If you have videos and/or photos you are willing to share, please contact Kathy Roun at kathy@nebraskamasonryalliance.org. They will be uploaded to TradeGamz and assist in providing your company with more exposure and encouraging workforce development for our industry. Thanks to Kehm Contractors, Inc. for providing our first two videos; Bricklayers Apprentice and Bricklayers Apprentice Coordinator.

Sign up for TradeGamz today and see what it is all about at www.TradeGamz.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



December 14, 2023

NMA Board of
Directors Meeting
4:00pm – 6:00pm
Location TBA

January 11, 2024

NMA Board of
Directors Meeting
11:30am – 1:00pm
MCC Fort Omaha Campus
Construction Education
Center Bldg. #25
Rooms 112/114

**NMA members and guests are always welcome to attend board meetings.*