

MASONRY MATTERS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEBRASKA MASONRY ALLIANCE

At the Nebraska Masonry Alliance (NMA) our mission is simple yet powerful - BUILD BETTER with MORE MASONRY for the RIGHT REASONS. NMA works hand in hand with industry partners to promote masonry as the building material of choice, provide technical support to the design community, and develop a highly skilled workforce ready to meet the demands of tomorrow.

Together, we're building a stronger, more resilient future – one brick at a time.

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Featured image showcases the exceptional masonry craftsmanship of T. Hansen Construction, Inc., using materials supplied by Watkins Concrete Block Company, at Southeast Community College – Milford Campus.

ABOUT T. HANSEN CONSTRUCTION

Founded in 1981, T. Hansen Construction is a family- and locally-owned masonry contractor serving the Omaha and Lincoln, NE areas. Specializing in the commercial construction market, the company is committed to delivering high-quality masonry work in a safe, cost-effective, and value-driven manner. With decades of experience and a dedication to craftsmanship, T. Hansen Construction continues to build projects that stand the test of time.

BEHOLD THE BEAUTY OF BLOCK

Strong. Sustainable. Safe. Stylish. That's the beauty of block.

Concrete masonry delivers more than structure — it provides lasting resilience, exceptional design versatility, and peace of mind. With block, there's no need to compromise. You get buildings that stand the test of time, resist natural and manmade disasters, reduce insurance costs, and enhance the communities they serve.

Join the Block Design Collective and help shape enduring, beautiful spaces — one block at a time. Visit www.beautyofblock.com for project support, design assistance, drawing and specification review, code compliance, fire, sound and thermal performance analysis and free webinars.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Omaha hosted the North American Masonry Conference in 2023. Several hundred people from two dozen countries attended this event to conduct TMS Codes & Standards review meetings, to present technical papers on masonry engineering challenges, to network with colleagues and peers, and to share ideas and best practices about how to build better with masonry around the world. Concluding the conference, a roundtable featured interactive dialog with contractors, architects, and engineers. The clear message that emerged from this round table was that we all need to collaborate more often, deliberately, and thoroughly.

Over the last two years, NMA members embraced that goal to collaborate and did a lot of heavy lifting. Together, we made inroads with local universities to make sure architecture, engineering, and construction management students in Nebraska know more about masonry than they did two years ago. Together, we introduced the Block Design Collective to dozens of architects and engineers, and we actively promoted its design assistance to general contractors and designers.

We let them know how to access engineering, design, and detailing support services on par with precast, mass timber, and structural steel from the Design Collective at no cost. Together, we promoted the masonry trade to high school students who seek options to earn a good living while they learn a lucrative career. Together, we are working with construction specifiers to ensure use of current products and wall system components and encouraging the industry to consider specify NMA-member mason contractors to construct their projects because of the quality standards we pledge to uphold.

Thank you for the contribution each of you has made. This has been and will continue to be a team effort, a true collaboration in every way. Let's continue to find ways to build better with more masonry for the right reasons.



Many thanks for your membership and support!

Shawn Kolterman, Chief Servant, NMA



CONCRETE MASONRY CHECKOFF

The Concrete Masonry Checkoff (CMC) is an industry funded initiative to support education, research, and promotion of manufactured concrete masonry units in the United States.

As of April 1, 2023, all concrete block producers in the United States contribute an equal rate of one penny per block sold to the Concrete Masonry Checkoff Board. These funds support the Checkoff's coordinated and continuous program of research, promotion, and education at the national and regional levels.

By working together, we can do things that individually would not be possible.

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS

Shawn Kolterman, President – Kehm Contractors
Mark Cleveringa – Vice President – Watkins Concrete Block Company
Dustin Windhorst, Secretary – Midwest Masonry, Inc.
Fernando Gutierrez, Treasurer – K&K Masonry, Inc.
Lisa Lackovic, Immediate Past President – Endicott Clay Products Co.

Katie Bugbee – Watkins Concrete Block/Reimers Kaufman
Brad Kline – TCC Materials
Jeff MacTaggart – Jeff MacTaggart Masonry
Linda Potter – Hohmann & Barnard, Inc.

PROUD MEMBERS

The Nebraska Masonry Alliance draws its strength from the dedicated professionals who stand behind it. Together, we elevate our industry, foster innovation, and shape the future of masonry in Nebraska and beyond.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our valued members for your steadfast commitment—to NMA, to the craft of masonry, and to the spirit of collaboration. Through your leadership and partnership, we continue to build a stronger, more resilient, and forward-looking industry.

Artisan Stone Company, Inc.
Ash Grove Cement
Ash Grove Packaging Corporation
Brickworks Supply Center
Chester Anderson & Sons
Elite Distribution
Endicott Clay Products Company

Hohmann & Barnard, Inc.
Irwin Equipment
Jeff Mactaggart Masonry
K&K Masonry
Kearney Crete & Block Company
Kehm Contractors, Inc.
Masonry Precast Specialty Services

Midwest Masonry, Inc.
Nauslar Construction, Inc.
Reimers Kaufman Concrete Products
Seedorff Masonry Inc
Steinwart Sales Corporation
Stonebrook Exterior
T. Hansen Construction

TCC Materials
Thiele Geotech, Inc.
Thompson Masonry
Thunn Construction Inc
U-Mix Products
Watkins Concrete Block Co.
Yankee Hill Brick & Tile

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF MASONRY: ACADEMIC ALLIANCES

UNL College of Architecture

NMA was proud to once again sponsor the annual Masonry Competition in collaboration with Professor Jason Griffiths and second-year architecture students. Held in May, the event gave students a hands-on opportunity to apply their masonry knowledge through a real-world design challenge.

Following a presentation by Linda Potter of Hohmann & Barnard, Inc. and a plant tour at Yankee Hill Brick, students designed 4x4 mockup walls highlighting masonry's versatility in color, texture, and form. Scholarships totaling \$4,200 were awarded to the top designs.

NMA also contributed \$3,070 for masonry code books, ensuring students have access to key learning resources—made possible through the generosity of NMA members and the NMA Endowment Fund.



Metropolitan Community College (MCC)

NMA proudly participated in the MCC Construction Meet & Greet events held in March and September 2025. Each session brought together over 150 construction students, providing them with valuable opportunities to connect with industry professionals, explore career paths, and learn about the diverse opportunities within the construction field. By engaging directly with students, NMA continues to support the next generation of skilled professionals, fostering relationships that help strengthen and sustain the future of the masonry and construction industries.

SkillsUSA Competition – Bella Garcia Shines at Nationals

Congratulations to Bella Garcia, a junior at Fremont High School and the Nebraska SkillsUSA State Champion in Masonry! Bella received a \$3,000 travel award from the Nebraska Masonry Alliance to support her journey to the National SkillsUSA Competition in Atlanta, GA—a premier event where students from across the country showcase their talent across more than 100 skilled, technical, and leadership contests.

NMA is thrilled to champion the next generation of masonry professionals. By supporting students like Bella, we're investing in the future of our workforce—encouraging craftsmanship, leadership, and pride in the trade.



Bella in action at the National SkillsUSA competition, demonstrating the precision and artistry that make masonry such a powerful and enduring trade.

CareerPathway.com – More than a Platform

CareerPathway.com is the all-in-one workforce development platform connecting educators, students, job seekers, and employers across the construction and masonry industries. It brings career exploration, education, and hiring together in one seamless experience—making it easier than ever to discover opportunities, post jobs, and connect with the right talent.

For businesses, it's a powerful way to share your story, showcase your company through content and videos, and connect with motivated individuals eager to build their futures. By engaging with emerging talent, you're not just strengthening your workforce—you're helping to shape the future of the masonry industry. Register your company and learn more at www.careerpathway.com today.

BRICK BY BRICK - MASTERING THE TRADE

AIA Annual Conference

NMA's Annual All-Member Meeting in March centered on the theme "Masonry – Outdesign, Outperform, Outlast." An esteemed panel of architects and industry professionals—moderated by NMA Immediate Past President Lisa Lackovic—shared valuable insights on design innovation, performance advantages, and strategies for growing masonry's market share.

Pictured (left to right): Lisa Lackovic (NMA and Endicott Clay Products), Bill Stott, AIA (AO), Bob Krupa, AIA, CSI, CDT (RDG Planning & Design), Tristin Korinek, AIA (Holland Basham Architects), Eileen Korth, AIA, NCARB, CSI, A4LE (Jackson and Jackson & Associates), and Nichole Schultes, AIA, LEED AP (TACKarchitects).



Lunch & Learn Events

In August, NMA sponsored Lunch & Learn events in Omaha and Lincoln in partnership with Watkins Concrete Block Company and Reimers Kaufman Concrete Products. The theme, "Inherent Resiliency of Concrete Masonry," brought together industry professionals to explore how masonry contributes to stronger, safer, and more sustainable construction.

Tino Kalayil, PE, Technical Director for the Concrete Masonry Checkoff, shared insights on masonry's ability to withstand natural and human-made disasters, its long-term durability, and the lifecycle benefits that make it a smart choice for resilient communities.

Through events like these, NMA continues to connect professionals with the knowledge and tools that strengthen our industry—building smarter, stronger, and safer together.



AIA Annual Conference

NMA participated in the AIA Nebraska Annual Conference, held September 17 – 18, 2025, at the Scott Conference Center in Omaha, NMA hosted an informative booth and engaged with architects and design professionals, fostering meaningful connections and sharing insights on the benefits of masonry.

Through this event, NMA reinforced the role of masonry as a vital and innovative element of modern architecture, highlighting its versatility, durability, and aesthetic potential.

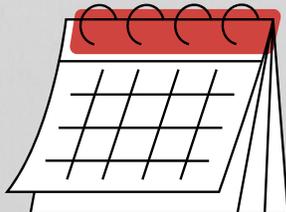
Pictured: NMA member Linda Potter – Hohman & Barnard and Megan Hayward – Trails West Architecture)

Maple St. Construct Design Lecture Series

The Maple St. Construct Design Lecture Series, in partnership with AIA Nebraska, brings nationally and internationally recognized architects, designers, and creatives to Omaha, NE, offering inspiring insights into the world of design and architecture. On July 15, 2025, NMA sponsored a lecture by Mindy Aust, AIA, Principal of MA Architecture in Des Moines, IA, held at the Omaha Conservatory of Music. This event provided attendees the opportunity to engage with thought leaders shaping the future of design. Watch the lecture online at: www.maplestconstruct.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!**



December 11, 2025

NMA Board of
Directors Meeting
11:30am – 1:00pm
@ TCC Materials
3208 Keystone Dr.
Omaha, NE 68134

January 8, 2026

NMA Board of
Directors Meeting
11:30am – 1:00pm
@ TCC Materials
3208 Keystone Dr.
Omaha, NE 68134

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