

Off The Wall

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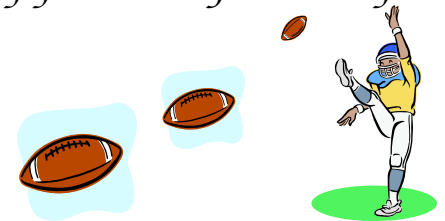
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Contractors – Please submit the names of prospective apprentices you plan to enroll by **December 31st** to ensure there is enough lab space available.

Happy Holidays!

Our best wishes go out to you, your companies, and your families for a healthy, prosperous New Year! We have many things to be thankful for (even in these times of uncertainty) and now, more than ever, we need each other. So, we hope you will join us in a renewed sense of fellowship and a focus on quality in 2009.



Help us “KICK OFF”
our January 8 meeting!

It will be held on **JANUARY 8** at the GA Tech Hotel and Conference Center (800 Spring Street NW, Atlanta) with **dinner beginning at 6:15 pm**. This meeting will be fairly short as it has come to our attention that it is also the night of the BCS game, and we want everyone to come here first!

Come early and join us for social time in the lobby bar area!

“INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS”

PRESIDENT: Karen Swords, Pyramid Masonry
VICE-PRES: Bernie Marinelli, Laser Development
SEC-TREAS: Chris Gibbs, Hanson Brick

Don't forget to RSVP by email or phone when you get this!

ATTN: Board Members!

We will meet on Thursday, January 8, at **4:30 pm** at the Georgia Tech Hotel & Conference Center.

If you are unable to attend, please notify Michèle as soon as possible.



2009

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

January 8th - installation of officers & dinner meeting

February 5th - dinner meeting

March 5th - dinner meeting

April 16th - general meeting at 2009 Expo/SkillsUSA

May 7th - CRAFTSMANSHIP AWARDS

May TBD - Wall Raiser Golf Tournament

June/July - no dinner meeting

Please check the calendar on the website for the most up-to-the-minute information on the activities of the association!

MASONRY ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA, INC.

“WATCH US GROW!”

2008 APPRENTICESHIP SPONSORS

\$138,975

62% of the pledges received

92% of our goal of \$150,000

**We appreciate your commitment to the
future of our industry.**

Thank you to those companies who participated in the 2008 fund drive. The Finance and Apprenticeship committees do their best to make every dollar count. If your company was unable to participate in 2008, we hope that you will consider a contribution in 2009.

MAG “MASONRY ACADEMY” KICKS OFF IN JANUARY, 2009

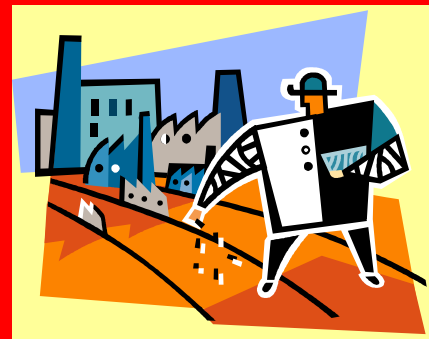
The MAG “Masonry Academy” will kick off January 2009. MAG received a grant from NCMA to provide training to high school students. We are starting with a pilot program in DeKalb County, and those students who qualify will be provided an opportunity to start a *masonry career* while attending their senior year of high school. *Masonry Association of Georgia (MAG) “Masonry Academy”* students who complete the Academy will receive credit towards their High School Diploma and the three year Masonry Apprenticeship as well as employment opportunities.

Ray Wirth will be teaching this program which will run Monday – Friday 12 hours a week. At present, 8-10 students from approximately five high schools have completed applications to attend in January. Jamie Buck also anticipates these students will participate in SkillsUSA regional and state competitions with the outcome of sending a student from this program to the National SkillsUSA masonry competition and bringing Georgia and MAG home an award.

MAG has several suppliers that agreed to donate and provide materials for the “Masonry Academy”. These donations are entirely separate from the apprenticeship program. We wish to thank the following organizations and suppliers helping the Masonry Academy get off to a great start:

N.C.M.A (National Concrete Masonry Association)
DeKalb County Schools
General Shale Brick
Georgia Masonry Supply
Trowel Trades
Pyramid Masonry
Georgia Masonry Institute
Georgia Concrete & Products Association

Jamie is very excited about this new program that will lead these students directly into year two of the apprenticeship program after they graduate high school. This model is going to be closely watched and soon emulated by masonry apprenticeship programs in other states....



BREAKDOWN BY CATEGORY:

28%	BLOCK
33%	BRICK
18%	CEMENT
13%	CONTRACTOR
7%	MISC

MASONRY ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA, INC.



MAG Apprenticeship Training Center

2501 Lantrac Court
Decatur, GA 30035

Phone: (678) 518-1104

Fax: (678) 518-1105

STAGE TESTING UNDERWAY AT TRAINING CENTER

Apprentice semester end Stage Testing took place on December 2nd & 9th. Bryan Light and several masonry instructors from surrounding states will be judging the completed projects on December 13th after their National Masonry Instructors meeting held at the Training Center. Ray Wirth will also assist. Apprentices that tested in Stages One & Two will be laboring for apprentices testing in Stages Four, Five, Six and Seven.

MAG anticipates two Bibler Masonry apprentices will be eligible for graduation once they complete and pass their last Stage at the end of the spring semester June 2, 2009. Way to Go! Projects will not be taken down until the end of this semester on December 16th when apprentices will tear down projects and prepare and clean the lab for the next semester that begins on January 6, 2009. Contractors that would like to come by **no later than 4:30 PM on the 16th** to view the projects are invited to attend. Please contact Jamie so she can make sure projects are not torn down prior to your arrival!

*Call Jamie at 678-518-1104
to volunteer for the
Apprenticeship Program.*

2009 EXPO/SKILLS USA to be Held April 16-17, 2009

Once again, we are partnering with CEFGA to help promote the construction industry to more than 5000 middle school, high school and college students. We have moved to a new venue this year—the Georgia International Convention Center (GICC) just south of downtown Atlanta, and we'll need your help to make the WORLD OF MASONRY a success. There will be over 20 "worlds" represented, and we want ours to continue to draw the biggest crowds with a Fastest Trowel contest and other hands-on opportunities.

We will hold our **April meeting on Thursday, April 16th** to coincide with other construction industry associations at the Expo.

"Every apprentice has the potential to become a mason. Help them achieve their potential. Volunteer!"

Many of you may or may not know that BIA's Conyers office will be closing this month. With this closing, after a career that spanned over 30 years in the brick industry and began on April 4, 1978, we announce the retirement of a colleague of the industry as well as a dear friend to many – **GWEN McNEAL.**



Gwen is a rarity these days to have worked so long for the same company. Bryan Light stated that Gwen's retirement is like cutting off his right arm!

All is not lost. Gwen has volunteered to continue to help with the ManPower Forum and the Construction Expo (unless she is vacationing somewhere in the Tropics!). So we won't let Gwen completely off the hook.

We wish Gwen all the best and enjoyment in her years to come. *Thank you Gwen for all that you have done for the masonry industry! We will miss you!*

If you have any news of interest you would like to see in this newsletter and on the website, please contact Michele at 770-271-8250. Add www.masonryassocga.com to your "Favorites" list and visit it frequently to stay in touch with what's happening.

MASONRY ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA, INC.

Apprenticeship Fall 2008 Wrap-Up *Nothing but Good Things!*

This has been a very good year for the MAG Apprenticeship Training Program! We have received your support in so many ways - materials, sponsoring students in the program, monetary contributions, the list goes on and on!

The masonry apprenticeship program took off in August with a FULL class; however, there was some expected attrition by late September. Class is being taught again this year by Ray Wirth and Mike Barber. We are so pleased with both instructors and thank them for their dedication in making the masonry program a quality one!

MAG is on Georgia's Eligible Providers List (ELP) that enables individuals to work with local career resource centers in their counties to participate in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding. This funding allows a person who may be interested in masonry as a career to receive the benefits of paid tuition for the length of the program, books and basic masonry tools. MAG had four individuals who participated in this program. *Two of these WIA students are currently looking for placement. This is at no cost to the contractor since their apprenticeship has already been paid.*

Several MAG Suppliers are participating and working with Jamie through a "Donation Schedule" of materials she incorporated last summer. This program is working VERY well. Participating suppliers commit to and guarantee specific amounts of donated materials on continuous delivery schedules for the Training Center, so there is a steady flow of materials readily available for the instructors and their classes. Jamie wishes to thank the following MAG Suppliers for their participation in this schedule:

BlockUSA
Boral Bricks
North Georgia Brick Company
Alley-Cassette Brick
Georgia Masonry Supply
Holcim (US) Inc.
National Cement Company

We absolutely could not achieve such great results without your continued generosity! If your company would like to get on board with the donation schedule of materials, please contact Jamie, and she will set up your company's schedule.

***"Future MAG Mission
Statement Goes Here..."***

RECENT BOARD ACTIVITIES

Your Masonry Association of Georgia officers and directors have been hard at work discussing the future of the association - where we want to go and how we want to get there - and developing a mission statement. **This mission statement will be revealed at the January 8th meeting.**

A special "task force" was developed to improve and enhance the criteria for the Craftsmanship Awards process with a renewed focus and emphasis on **QUALITY CRAFTSMANSHIP**. A comprehensive, objective judging packet is in the final stages of development and will be made available to those contractors who wish to participate in the awards in January.

Contractors should pay special attention to the submission forms that will be mailed out in early January. A quick turnaround will be required this year so that proper categories can be finalized and judging can get underway.

The more contractors who enter projects into the awards process, the more quality craftsmanship we can display. **We encourage and challenge each member contractor to submit at least one project this year!**

The Awards banquet will be held in lieu of a regular dinner meeting on May 7th.

Masonry Association of Georgia, Inc.

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"Masonry for the Future"

It's Dues Renewal Time again...your company should have received an invoice for 2009 dues in the past week. If you are not the decision maker in your company, please make it a point to follow up on your membership status.

After careful consideration and a hard look at the budget by the Board, your 2009 Dues includes an increase of \$50 (the first increase in several years). We will also continue the \$50 "participation fee" that will be credited back to your company account after at least one member company attends a minimum of two regular dinner meetings. Last year, this was a very successful (combined with our new dinner meeting location and great programs) incentive for participation. Over half of our membership received this credit.

Your company's involvement is imperative to the continued sustenance and growth of the association, and we look forward to seeing you at our next regular dinner meeting in January. Let's break last year's record attendance of over 50 people!

Why you should renew your 2009 membership in MAG:

APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING-This is a primary purpose of the association. With our core program in Atlanta, your association is addressing a very real need for qualified masons to install masonry products, and we are succeeding! Your response as contractors and associates continues to be supportive and generous. *Thank you!*

FRIENDSHIP/NETWORKING -Your association's members are people who have many of the same concerns, needs and interests as you. They're the kind of people you enjoy seeing. And they're the kind of people who will probably end up as your friends. Association events, meetings, membership directory and information exchanges make networking a reality for you and your peers.

GIVE AND TAKE-Your association provides members with the opportunity to discuss mutual problems...probe new directions...share and criticize each other's thoughts...all with a high degree of candor.

PUBLICITY-Your association produces a monthly newsletter filled with information about meeting programs, members, industry trend news, etc. as well as maintains a frequently updated website. Also, an annual membership directory is published and distributed to architects and others in the industry.

LEADERSHIP-Our industry needs leaders - people who can actively mobilize you and your peers toward industry-wide action and who can chart the association's future. An association produces *voluntary leadership that can make a difference.*

QUALITY-The degree to which you are able to sustain high standards of *quality and customer service* will strongly influence your ability to grow. We can provide you with examples of firms "doing things right" and give you the chance to learn from them.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM, CONTACT:

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