



Gary Porter, Executive Director of the Masonry Advisory Council is called upon with questions about construction concerns and for masonry advice from a variety of Architects, Engineers, Contractors, Developers and Distributor sources. He is dedicated to ongoing education of masonry and shares helpful tips from his professional experience that may be beneficial to you.

## Illinois Structural Masonry Coalition

July 2017

### MAC introduces Structural Masonry Support Services

The Illinois Structural Masonry Coalition is a combined effort sponsored by many groups that have interests in masonry, working together to promote and provide resources for design of structural and load-bearing masonry. The combined effort is made up of the Illinois Concrete Products Association, The Brick Distributors of Illinois, The International Masonry Institute, The Masonry Institute of Southern Illinois, Bricklayers and Allied Craft Workers from Local 6, 8 and 21, The Greater Chicago Mason Contractors Association and our group The Masonry Advisory Council.

The Coalition seeks to be a resource to Illinois' engineering community by providing design assistance, technical service, and in some cases project-specific consultation and hands-on training in masonry design software. Our collective goal is to help you design buildings that satisfy building code requirements and design objectives while taking full advantage of the efficiencies of structural masonry.

One of the key individuals to the Illinois Structural Masonry Coalition is Sam Rubenzer. Sam has given numerous lunch & learn topics, seminars and held private meetings with structural engineers and architects in the Chicagoland area, helping them with masonry design. His service through the Coalition is free to those who need help.

If you need masonry advice on a project you are designing, call our office at 847-297-6704 or go to our website and click on "[ASKMAC](#)".

A bio of Sam follows.



#### Education

Masters in Business Administration – Marquette University

Bachelor of Civil Engineering – University of Minnesota

#### Professional Registration

Licensed Structural Engineer (SE)

Professional Engineer (PE)

(continued)

### Sam Rubenzer Biography

Sam has 18 years of experience in structural engineering. Sam spent the first years of his career working in Minneapolis, Minnesota designing a variety of buildings including concrete structures, composite steel floors designs, and load-bearing masonry retail stores. Also early in his career, Sam was a structural engineer for GRAEF and designed many projects in southeast Wisconsin, including a sports stadium, large exhibition hall, several office buildings, and multiple education facilities. Sam then spent 5 years at RAM International and Bentley Systems, where he managed the structural engineering software training team and provided training to structural engineers on the usage of STAAD.pro, RAM Structural System, RAM Elements, RAM Connection, RAM Concept, and other structural design tools.

Sam founded FORSE Consulting in January of 2010 and continues to assist structural engineers with designs on a wide variety of projects, building types, and uses of software programs from Bentley, RISA, TEKLA, IES, SCIA, and others. He and his staff work hard to master each of the programs used by structural engineers and create presentations comparing the attributes of different software tools.

An expert in structural software programs, Sam speaks at structural engineering conferences nationwide, including NCSEA and NASCC, and also presents at SEA and ASCE events. One topic Sam highlights is structural masonry analysis and design. In addition, Sam has been the structural engineering consultant to the Wisconsin Structural Masonry Coalition since 2010. Sam is also the 2016 Haller Award recipient, an honor that recognizes an individual engineer who has made an outstanding contribution to Structural Masonry Design and Education in practice.

If you have questions or need help with a masonry issue, contact the Masonry Advisory Council at 847-297-6704.



[masonryadvisorycouncil.org](http://masonryadvisorycouncil.org)



[masonryadvisorycouncil.org/ask-mac/](http://masonryadvisorycouncil.org/ask-mac/)