



# What's happening

# IN MASONRY



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.

January 2018

## World of Concrete / World of Masonry 2018

*"This is hands down the single greatest masonry promotion impacting our industry"* said Jim O'Conner, executive director of the Mason Contractors of Greater Chicago.

Every year the largest construction trade show in the world takes place in Las Vegas, Nevada called *The World of Concrete/World of Masonry*. This is usually in late January or early February, so it is a brief escape from the Chicago winter weather. The Las Vegas Convention Center is massive and this show uses all buildings as well as two huge areas outside to display products and demonstrations. This year's *World of Masonry* show is from January 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> with the *Spec-mix Bricklayer 500* on Wednesday January 24<sup>th</sup>.

At the *World of Masonry* there is a national competition to determine who is the world's best bricklayer called the *Spec-Mix Bricklayer 500*. There are regional competitions in the summer and fall which lead to the final competition comprised of 24 masons this year and their mason tenders competing for over \$125,000 in cash and prizes. The top prize is a brand new FORD F-250 4x4 XLT Crew Cab truck. The competitors have to lay as many modular sized brick as they can in 60 minutes building a double-wythe brick wall 26'-8" long and as high as they can go! Several years ago there was some question regarding the quality of the completed wall as these masons lay in one hour approximately what mason contractors figure their guys can produce in an 8 hour day. There is now a greater consideration for quality of the work and a craftsman ship award is given to the mason who can lay the most "sellable" wall of at least 500 brick. Completed walls are judged by a team of masonry experts.



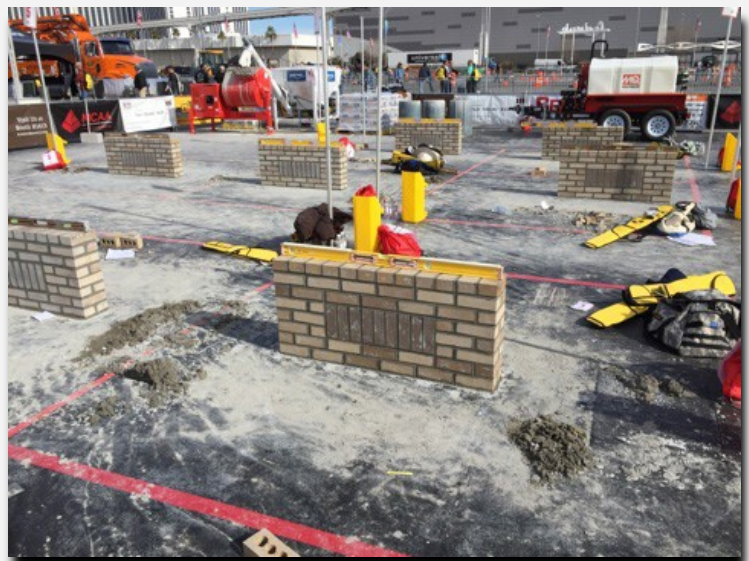
## World of Concrete / World of Masonry 2018

There is also a competition called the Fastest Trowel on the Block. This is a competition to see who can lay the most concrete block in 20 minutes, the wall is 30 feet long. The masons get to use a mason tender to assist them with positioning the block and tempering their mortar. There is a time at the end of the 20 minute laying period where the masons are given 4 minutes to tool and brush their wall. Judging is based on production, workmanship, plumb, level, story and voids.



Another competition called the Masonry Skills Competition, designed for those masons who are just beginning the trade. There is a competition for apprentices for 1st, 2nd and 3rd year. Each apprentice is given brick, mortar and a plan for a sample wall in which the apprentices have 3 hours to complete this wall. Once again, work is judged and prizes are awarded for the top competitors.

This competition is just one day of the show. On other days there are meetings for contractors to improve their business skills and new and innovative products to see as this trade changes a little each year.



The Masonry Advisory Council is a non-profit organization that markets and promotes the benefits of building with masonry. Our vast network of industry professionals are available through MAC as a source of education, technical support, promotion, and market outreach.

Visit our website [masonryadvisorycouncil.org](http://masonryadvisorycouncil.org)

For immediate masonry support call us at 847-297-6704

