



A Word from Our President

April 2019

Hello VMA members and friends! You may have noticed, our industry is desperately in need of a new generation of skilled masons! The average journeyman bricklayer is reaching retirement age and new masons need to be trained. That is why



Rusty Hobson
VMA President

VMA is putting so much focus on its Apprenticeship Training Program. It's extremely valuable to all of our members to have knowledgeable tradesmen and quality installers of our products. This year's events will focus on fundraising, recruitment and improved training to create a competitive Apprenticeship Program. Please join us as we grow this exciting program by participating in our fundraising efforts and events. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

The Virginia Masonry Association is an organization comprised of masonry contractors, manufacturers and suppliers that promote masonry construction in Central Virginia by providing a source of education for masonry apprentices, architects, contractors, homeowners and high school masonry programs.

VMA Student & Contractor Day a Huge Success!



(From L to R) Marcia Meighan of VMA, Mac Beaton of Henrico County Career and Technical Education and Danna Markland of Homebuilding Association of Richmond.

Masonry students from two Henrico County High Schools worked alongside VMA Masonry Contractors and Apprentices during the Student & Contractor Day on March 20th. The all-brick exterior house, located in Mechanicsville, is being constructed primarily by the various trade students at Academy at Virginia Randolph and ACE at Highland Springs. This event was a precursor to the Henrico County Signing Day where students who have shown exceptional interest and promise are interviewed and signed to hire upon graduation, much like you see with college and pro athletics. Last year's highly successful debut event was nationally publicized and is now being replicated in schools across the country. Mac Beaton, Director of Career and Technical



Apprentice Furney Hatcher, sponsored by James River Exteriors uses his skills to assist and train Jayhem Spurlock, a masonry student at the Academy at Virginia Randolph.



Education at Henrico County, developed this event in hopes that it would build excitement for the trades while offering post-high school employment opportunities for Henrico County students. This year, Henrico County's Signing Day is April 23rd. VMA Members are encouraged to participate. A very special thanks to all those who helped to make such a successful event. Hiring for summer or full-time? Join us for Signing Day!

Would you like more information about signing day? Contact VMA at vma@virginiamasonry.org.

HBAR Student Construction Conference

On November 2, 2018, VMA members joined HBAR (Homebuilding Association of Richmond) for its 1st Annual Student Construction Conference at the Redskins Training Facility in Richmond. Over 600 students from 5 different school systems across Central Virginia came out on a beautiful day to visit close to 30 booths, each featuring fun, hands-on activities representing a multitude of industries and trades. Due to the success of the event, a 2nd Annual HBAR Student Construction Conference is in the works for November 2019 and is expected to include additional schools and industry participants.



Blake Marshall of M3, Inc. and VMA Apprentice demonstrates the trade to interested students.

Students Compete in SkillsUSA District Competitions



WINNERS!

SkillsUSA District Masonry Competitions
February 6, 2019



The top finishers at the SkillsUSA District Masonry Competition on February 6th, 2019.
(from left to right)

3rd Place - Corey Dupree

2nd Place - Emily Collier

1st Place - Mia Hennig

(All three top finishers attend ACE Center at Highland Springs)

VMA Members Support Masonry Education!



Pictured here (from left to right): Mike Chaney and Rusty Hobson of James River Exteriors, Jim Strotmeyer of Allied Concrete Products and Charles Bartocci of Roanoke Cement cheer on the competitors at the SkillsUSA competition on February 6, 2019.

Prizes included tool bags, trowels, levels and miscellaneous other materials, tools and goodies, generously donated by:



VMA is excited and proud to announce that **14 Apprentices** completed the Apprenticeship Training Program's Advanced Class in December 2018!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 11 - Contractor Meeting
2pm Department of Labor and Industry

April 11 - Board Meeting
4:30pm Riverside Brick, Roseneath Rd.

June 6 - Joint Membership Meeting
5pm Jefferson Lakeside Country Club
****Dustless Dry Masonry Saw Demo!**
By **iQ POWER TOOLS**
No Dust. No Water. No Problems.

Sept 19 - VMA Golf Tournament
Sycamore Creek Golf Course
****Fundraising Event!!****



Virginia Masonry Association, P.O. Box 6783, Richmond, Virginia 23230