



# Iowa MASONRY BULLETIN

Official Newsletter  
of the Masonry  
Institute of Iowa

Volume 17 | Issue 1

*Working to build a better Iowa — with brick, block and stone.*

**Masonry Institute of Iowa**  
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TCC Materials

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## President's Report

by Scott Ellingson  
TCC Materials

Summer is here in Iowa and soon the masonry construction market will be full speed ahead. It seems to be a trend over the past years that our masonry construction busy season gets started later and later. Some of this is due to the changing winter seasons we have. The 2016 winter was very mild and a lot of our projects completed ahead of schedule.

But as the spring of 2017 rolled in the upcoming projects were not ready so our member masons & contractors hit a lull in the market. These late starting projects result in demands for the masonry contractors to increase the manpower on these projects to get them back on schedule. When in fact, if the project had stayed on schedule and followed the time frame it was bid at, the project could be manned as bid and maintain the schedule instead of over manning a behind schedule project and trying to catch up.

Manpower will again be the topic when the busy season hits and MII has had a busy spring promoting masonry both to the design community and the worker development areas. MII has worked with Des Moines Public Schools Central Iowa

Area High Schools to educate students on the benefits of becoming a mason and learning the trade. Our hope, along with the Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers #3 is to increase the number of apprentices each year by getting in front of the students and showing them masonry.

MII has also been presenting to AIA and SEAIA at their monthly meetings to better educate these professionals on proper masonry design and usage. Our hope is these presentations will give these groups a more accurate method of masonry design and use which will in turn produce a better cost per square foot for our system along with increased longevity.

All that said, it has been a busy and productive spring for the MII. I would like to ask all our members to look at ways MII can get more involved in each of your areas. Your input on how to develop manpower and promote design in your areas would be greatly appreciated. I then challenge you to get involved and be a part of this process as the MII continues to work towards building a better Iowa.





# MII Association Director's Report

by Jenny Stephenson  
Association Director

Over the last few days I've been contemplating what to write about....and it keeps coming back to the same theme:

## *One Voice for the Masonry Profession in Iowa.*

This is a reoccurring theme I see over and over again as MII members donate their time, talents and materials to further the mission of MII, and I thought I would share how the membership has stepped up to promote masonry.

MII is working to revamp our presence at the AIA Iowa, Annual Convention in September. As in years past, we will have a Masonry Row but over the years it has become convoluted with non-masonry/non-MII members.

This year MII has reserved ten booths for ten MII members who want to exhibit. All the marketing material will list the Institutes's name.

## *The MII board was in agreement - promote masonry as a whole to the architects.*

MII plans on adding additional "Masonry Row" signage and marketing to promote the members to make it a successful event for all.

The Architectural Design Awards Committee has been working hard to revamp this year's AIA awards program. We will be offering more customized awards - think "best of" and a people's choice - and the committee is currently looking at updating the award plaques to better reflect

masonry in the award. Members will also be more involved in vetting the entries and making sure they meet the award requirements.

MII also plan to go into the schools and community colleges next fall to present on masonry and once again, I will be calling upon the membership to help out. I have no doubt members will step up and help out - all to advance the masonry profession in Iowa!

MII also had a few "firsts" including our first UNI student field day. It was exciting that several members that had never helped with a field day were able to participate.

MII presented its first AIA Dine and Discover in Cedar Rapids earlier this month. Again, MII members supported this by helping me present to the architects, and attending the event.

This is just one of many continuing education programs that MII will be presenting going forward. New programs will be developed, and I have no doubt in my mind that the membership once again will rise to the occasion to provide the support for these programs.

So if you have an educational story and/or pictures of masonry design that I may use in educating the architects, engineers and contractors, please contact me. Going forward I want to use these 'real world experiences' as case studies in presentations. Lastly, thank you to those that have already sent photos.

Happy Summer!  
Jenny Stephenson

# 2017 Foundation Scholarship Winners

The Nicholas Nicoloy Education Foundation had 38 applications for its scholarship program this spring. The committee chose to award ten students with \$7,000 in scholarship money for the upcoming school year. Winners are listed below.

Scholarship Committee: Jesse Borchert, King's Material; Tim Neumann, Stetson Building Supply; Tara Miller, Iowa Valley Community College.

**New guidelines for  
2018 will be  
announced  
in September!**

Name	School Attending in 2017	Major	Hometown	Amount
Zack Ambrose	Iowa Western Community College	construction management	Council Bluffs	\$750.00
Nelson Flores	Iowa Western Community College	construction management	Shenandoah	\$750.00
Lauren Franken	Iowa State University	construction engineering	Schaller	\$1,000.00
Michael Gehl	Iowa State University	architecture	Cascade	\$500.00
Nathan Harris	Iowa Lakes Community College	construction management	Graettinger	\$500.00
Paige Penning	Iowa State University	architecture	Garner	\$500.00
Cole Perkins	Des Moines Area Community College	pre-construction engineering	Madrid	\$750.00
Samuel Skattebo	Iowa Lakes Community College	construction management	Graettinger	\$500.00
Alba Garcia-Stoyanova	Iowa State University	architecture	Ames	\$1,000.00
Kurtis Schreck	Iowa State University	construction engineering	Urbandale	\$1,000.00



*TCC Materials Rhonda Gordon and Alex Steffen and MII director Jenny Stephenson participated in the bricklaying portion of Sioux City Brick's Brick School in April.*

## MII on the Go!

MII had a busy winter and spring - listed below are meetings and events that the Institute has been involved with.

- World of Concrete in Las Vegas
- AIA's monthly Emerging Professional Committee Meetings
- Structural Engineers Association of Iowa (SEAIA) monthly meetings
- Brick School at Sioux City Brick (Adel plant)
- January meeting of CSI (Construction Specification Institute)
- BAC3 apprenticeship showcase
- Master Builders of Iowa annual convention reception
- Spoke at the BAC3 semi-annual member meeting to update the bricklayers on MII initiatives
- Attended and sponsored the quarterly AIA Allied Luncheon in Dubuque



# Annual Meeting Recap

The Masonry Institute of Iowa held its annual meeting in Windsor Heights on Wednesday, March 1. The MII membership voted to add “Design Partner Membership” to the bylaws. This new membership is geared towards architectural and engineering firms as an opportunity to reach the design community and create relationships between our industries,

## Design Partner Membership

Yearly Dues: \$100

Benefits of the Design Partner Membership:

- Each membership will receive three entries/registrations in any combination: Architectural Awards Entry, Spring Seminar Registration (\$40-60 value each)
- MII member pricing to MII events
- Communications from MII
- Opportunity to serve on MII’s committees
- First opportunity at MII’s Lunch & Learns

## 2017 Board of Elections

The membership voted and re-elected the following board of directors:

- Brick Manufacturer –  
Jeff Patterson, Glen-Gery Brick
- Block Manufacturer –  
Jesse Borchert, King’s Material
- Stone Manufacturer –  
Alan Boddicker, Stone Concepts
- Mason Contractor –  
Dick Felice, Forrest and Associate
- At-Large –  
Rick Seybert, Continental Cement

The board re-elected the executive committee for another year: *Scott Ellingson, TCC Materials (president), Andy Ward, Architectural Products (vice president), Ron Hopkins, Edwards Cast Stone (secretary) and Alan Boddicker, Stone Concepts (treasurer).*

During the annual meeting, members heard about MII’s current strategic plan and reviewed MII’s “A Year in Review” that lists the current

and upcoming initiatives of the Institute.

Afterwards the membership met at 515 Brewery for a late night happy hour.

# Spring Seminar Recap

Nearly 90 attendees earned 5.5 learning units at the 2017 Spring Seminar held at the Windsor Heights Community Center on Thursday, March 2. Speakers and programs for the annual continuing education event included:

- **Fire Safety with Concrete Masonry Products**, Nicholas Lang, PE, National Concrete Masonry Association
- **Masonry and Energy Codes - Effective Compliance Methods**, Dr. W. Mark McGinley, PE, University of Louisville
- **High Performance Exterior Masonry Wall Design and Detailing for Water Resistance, Thermal Control and Crack Control**, Dr. W. Mark McGinley, PE, University of Louisville
- **Quality Assurance and Inspection of Concrete Masonry Construction**, Nicholas Lang, PE, National Concrete Masonry Association
- **Save the Wall: Retrofit Re-anchoring of Existing Masonry and Stone Facades**, Stephen Getz, BSCE





# Thank You to Our Annual Meeting & Spring Seminar Sponsors!

## Speaker Sponsors



**KINGS**  
MATERIAL INC.

## Spring Seminar Luncheon Sponsor



## Annual Meeting Dinner Sponsor



## Welcome Reception Sponsor



## Dessert Sponsor



## Happy Hour Sponsor



## Breakfast Sponsor



## Break Sponsor



## Break Sponsor



**Have you checked out the  
2016 Year in Review?**

**Click [here](#) to read it now!**

# ISU's Unit Design Competition Held

The Masonry Institute of Iowa and King's Material, along with the National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA), hosted its annual unit design competition at Iowa State University. Students in Professor Bo-Suk Hur's Arch 343/644 Building Science and Technology IV class participated in the competition as a class project earlier this spring.



The goal of the annual competition is to design a new concrete masonry or hardscape unit that can be manufactured on a block machine or a big-board machine.

The projects were judged with the following criteria: use of modular coordination, manufacturing efficiency, innovation, technical performance (potential stability, weathering resistance) and quality of craft and presentation (clear drawings, well-constructed prototype, graphic appeal, etc.).

Judges for the competition were ISU alumnus David J. Nichols, AIA, Downing Architects, and landscape architect, Mark Slifka, Greenscapes Associates, along with King's Material representative Jesse Borchert.

The first place team received \$250 in prize money, second place received \$150 and third place received \$100.

**Iowa State's first place team was chosen as one of three finalists that will advance to the national competition this summer.**

ISU's team will present at the NCMA Mid-Year Meeting in Toronto in August where the winning concrete masonry unit design will be announced. In 2015, ISU placed second overall.

The two other universities invited to the Mid-Year meeting include Ball State and North Carolina State University.

"Iowa State University architecture students researched and proposed designs...(which they) try to deviate from conventional concrete masonry unit construction methods and propose various architectural and structural possibilities," said Professor Hur.

This year's winning design is "Amphi Block". This block is designed for both indoor and outdoor theater applications. This four-piece block mold is versatile, applicable for sound enhancement by allowing for flat, angled surfaces, and sound absorption. Sound absorption is facilitated with hollow spaces that can fit sound absorbing foam, as well as electrical and lighting capabilities. The blocks can also be arranged to allow for seating and a stage. An entire theater can be built with this block mold.

[Click here](#) to view the team's entry for the national competition.



*Amphi - Block: the winning unit design competition team*



## ISU Engineering Student Field Day

On April 20 sixty ISU engineering students participated in a masonry student field day. This hands-on experience included building a masonry structure in the parking lot by the Town Engineering Building (led by Scott Ellingson of TCC Materials and Jeff Forrest and Ray Lemke of BAC3). The structures were judged and the winning teams were awarded MII sweatshirts. Students also went on a walking tour of campus for a discussion on masonry construction with Mike Warner of United Brick. Brad Perkins, P.E., Lecturer, ISU, has been instrumental in getting this event scheduled each year, and the students leave the event with a great appreciation and excitement for masonry.



[View more pics on MII's Facebook page!](#)

## MII Speaks at ISU's Design-Build Institute of America Club

MII presented at the Design-Build Institute of America – ISU chapter meeting on April 18. Association Director Jenny Stephenson and MII president Scott Ellingson met with approximately 15 students. MII presented a short Powerpoint on masonry while the students carved bricks. Thank you to United Brick for the brick donation for carving.

The Iowa State University Chapter of the Design-Build Institute of America is a student-run organization devoted to promoting knowledge of design-build and related topics.



### Golfers Needed!

MII is sponsoring a foursome at the Laborers' Local 177 Charity Golf Classic on Friday, July 28.

Time: 8:00am shotgun

Location: Terrace Hill Golf Course,  
Pleasant Hill

If you are interested in golfing on the MII team, please contact Jenny Stephenson.



# UNI Student Field Day

Approximately 45 construction management, industrial tech and interior design students and their instructors from the University of Northern Iowa attended its first student field day on Thursday, April 13 to learn about building with masonry.

The students toured King's Material concrete block plant in Cedar Rapids as well as watched videos that showed the step-by-step process to make brick and cast stone.

The students then toured Jorgensen Plaza, an under construction senior retirement community where the architect, general contractor, concrete block supplier and mason contractor spoke about the project and its use of masonry.

Next, the students toured Panther Village, a finished complex built with masonry. The architect, UNI's Department of Residence, and brick and block supplier spoke about the project.

The students spent the afternoon learning to lay brick at Carl Schuler Masonry. The students divided into groups, then designed and built a fire pit. The groups competed against each other and the winning team was awarded MII sweatshirts.

**Thank you to the MII members who helped make this day possible!**

- Carl Schuler Masonry
- TCC Materials
- BAC3
- Midland Concrete Products
- King's Material
- United Brick



**Check out all the photos on [Facebook](#)!**





# Welcome New MII Members!

MII is pleased to welcome the following new associate members.



[www.besser.com](http://www.besser.com)

Alpena, Michigan



[www.countymaterials.com](http://www.countymaterials.com)

Marathon, Wisconsin



[www.kansasbrick.com](http://www.kansasbrick.com)

Hoisington, Kansas



[www.irwinproducts.com](http://www.irwinproducts.com)

St. Louis, Missouri



[www.nawkaw.com](http://www.nawkaw.com)

Athens, Georgia



[www.cloudceramics.com](http://www.cloudceramics.com)

Concordia, Kansas

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## MII is now on LinkedIn!



Find us on our newest social media page - [LinkedIn!](#)

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter and Instagram and like us on Facebook.





# MASONRY INSTITUTE OF IOWA

## ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AWARDS

Entries due  
July 17



Know of a project that  
should enter? Let Jenny  
Stephenson know & she  
will contact the architect!

For more info, visit [MasonryInstituteofIowa.org](http://MasonryInstituteofIowa.org)

2017 **Call for ENTRIES**



# Member Spotlight: John Thiele



## **John Thiele, Midland Concrete Products**

### **MII Involvement**

- **MII Board**
- **Golf Committee**
- **By-Laws Committee**
- **Membership/Promotions Committee**

**Written by John:** I started working for Marquart Concrete Block Company in September, 1978, as a bookkeeper. Advanced to inside Sales, Outside Sales, and became Sales Manager in 1981. The company was bought out by Manatts in November 1985, and its name changed to Marquart Block Company. I started as Manager of Waterloo location. Over the next 12 years we opened a Sales office in Dubuque; bought a plant/office in Marshalltown; and bought another plant/office in Grand Junction. I operated as General Manager/Vice President of our four locations through 2005, when we were purchased by Dakota Red Corporation. The company name changed to Marquart Concrete Products. I served as location Manager for Waterloo location through 2014, following the purchase of Croells Masonry & Landscaping. We merged together two Waterloo offices and changed the company name to Midland Concrete Products. Since that time I've served as Technical Sales Representative working out of the Waterloo office for both Waterloo and Clear Lake locations. This September will mark 39 years in the business.

I became involved with the Iowa Concrete Masonry Association in 1981. Sometime in the mid 1980's the ICMA decided to disband and put our financial resources into MII.

**I was elected to the MII Board in the mid-80s and have served continuously, other than a one-year hiatus to get some "new blood" on the board.**

I served about 15 years as Board Secretary. I have lived In Dysart my entire life. I started driving back and forth when I attended Hawk-eye Institute of Technology for two years prior to starting at Marquart. My bride Pamela also grew up on a farm just outside of Dysart. We have three children. Our oldest Joe and his wife Doria (Portland, OR) have one son and a daughter on the way. Our second Jennifer, and her husband Luke, who is in the army, are currently stationed in Fairbanks, Alaska. They have four kids and another addition on the way. Our youngest, Laura, has been teaching 5th grade math at an all-girls school in Kuwait. She's planning on being back (mostly in Alaska) this summer and then go back to Kuwait this fall for perhaps her last year teaching overseas.

We built my "dream home" (block backup, brick veneer) in 1999, but currently have it on the market and are fixing up a smaller ranch house to downsize as we get closer to retirement. As far as hobbies go, I really enjoy playing golf and if I keep enjoying it, I may actually improve some day. I never really considered myself a carpenter, but I must enjoy things like hanging drywall, laying tile, etc. because it seems like I've been doing a lot of that lately.

Over the years I've watched the industry change tremendously. When I first started in the business, 8" Block were the workhorse of the industry. We were running six boom trucks out of our Waterloo location, and typically each truck was delivering 5-8 loads per day. We were probably delivering an average of 10+ basements per

**Member Spotlight** continued on page 17



*R to L: Bob Shellmeyer (former MII director), MII member Mike Boucher and John Thiele*



**Tournament Club of Iowa**  
**1000 Tradition Dr, Polk City, IA 50226**  
**Thursday, August 31**  
**4-Person Best Shot | 1:00pm Shotgun**  
**\$125/MII member**  
**\$100/Guest (non-member)**

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Proceeds will go to the MII Charles Nicolay Educational Foundation to help fund scholarships for Iowa masonry and construction students and other education initiatives of the industry. Don't pass up the opportunity to play this superb course or the chance to network with some of the best in the masonry business.

PLEASE CONSIDER ASKING AN ARCHITECT/ENGINEER/CONTRACTOR YOU WORK WITH TO ATTEND. AS AN INCENTIVE, IF YOU REGISTER A NON-MII MEMBER TO GOLF WITH YOU, HE/SHE CAN REGISTER AT THE SPECIAL PROMOTIONAL PRICE OF \$100/GOLFER.

Organization/Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Player 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Player 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Player 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Player 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Pay by: \_\_\_ credit card \_\_\_ check

Your registration includes  
18-holes of golf, cart, pin  
game prizes, winning team  
prizes, refreshments, goodie  
bag, door prizes and a  
delicious dinner. THANK  
YOU for your support.

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Address Associated with the Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number #: \_\_\_\_\_

3-Digit Verification Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Tax ID # (for institutions): \_\_\_\_\_

Total Due: \_\_\_\_\_

**Register your team online at**  
**MasonryInstituteofIowa.org!**

☐ We are currently seeking sponsorships! If your company is interested in being a sponsor, please check the box and someone will contact you.

Please mail or fax registration form with payment to:

Masonry Institute of Iowa  
6919 Vista Drive, West Des Moines, IA 50266  
fax: (515) 282-9117 cell: (515) 979-8235  
jstephenson@masonryinstituteofIowa.org







# MII Charles Nicolay Educational Foundation Annual Charity Classic

Tournament Club of Iowa, Polk City  
Thursday, August 31

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All sponsorships will receive signage prominently displayed throughout the tournament, recognition in the program, MII communications (newsletter, social media, etc) and mention during the dinner. See additional benefits below. **THANK YOU** for your support!

## **GOLD TEE SPONSORSHIP - \$2,500**

- Complimentary registration for two foursomes
- Two hole sponsorships with personal representation at hole (includes two additional dinner tickets)
- Opportunity to address the golfers during the outing

## **SILVER TEE SPONSORSHIP - \$1,500**

- Complimentary registration for one foursome
- One hole sponsorships with personal representation at hole (includes one additional dinner ticket)

## **DINNER SPONSORSHIP - \$1,000**

- Complimentary registration for two golfers

## **BEVERAGE CART SPONSOR - ~~SOLD~~**

**SOLD**

- Your logo displayed on the drink tickets and beverage cart
- ~~Company representative to hand out the drink tickets~~

## **19th HOLE SPONSOR - ~~SOLD~~**

**SOLD**

- Your logo printed on the drink ticket for the 19th hole (after golf)
- ~~Company representative to hand out the drink tickets~~

## **DOOR PRIZE SPONSOR - ~~SOLD~~**

**SOLD**

- Your logo printed on all door prize tickets
- ~~Company representative to help draw winning tickets~~

## **WINNING TEAM PRIZE SPONSOR - ~~SOLD~~**

**SOLD**

- Your logo printed on the prize envelopes
- ~~Company representative to hand out prizes~~

## **GOODIE BAG SPONSOR - ~~SOLD~~**

**SOLD**

- Your logo printed on the goodie bag

## **HOLE IN ONE SPONSOR - \$350**

- Signage and personal representation at your sponsored hole

## **PIN GAME SPONSOR- \$300**

- Signage and personal representation at your sponsored hole

## **HOLE SPONSOR - \$250**

- Signage and personal representation at your sponsored hole

Pay online at  
[MasonryInstituteofIowa.org](http://MasonryInstituteofIowa.org)!



# MII Supports SkillsUSA

MII has partnered with SkillsUSA to advance the masonry profession through SkillsUSA's high school and community college programs that participate.

This year the state masonry competition had one entry – a junior from Perry High School – TJ Sheehy. As the only contestant, TJ automatically qualified for the national competition. In lieu of a state competition, TJ worked with the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local Union 3 in preparation. TJ placed 26th overall at nationals.



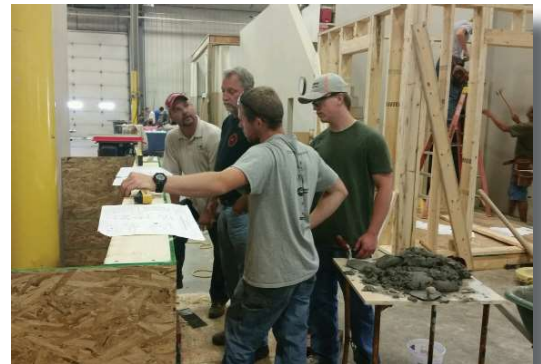
*Special thanks to Marshalltown Tools for providing TJ with a trowel, jointer and bag.*



MII, along with BAC3, also traveled to Iowa Central Community College in June to work with the SkillsUSA TeamWorks students who participating in nationals. The team placed 6th at nationals.

The TeamWorks competition are teams of four students who build a structure that includes a masonry wall with flashing and MortarNet.

Jeff Forrest and Ray Lemke from the BAC3 worked with the students in preparation for the national competition.



## About SkillsUSA

*SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives, working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. It helps each student excel. SkillsUSA is a national nonprofit organization serving teachers and high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations. It was formerly known as VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America).*



# Des Moines Public School Skilled Trade Alliance

The Des Moines Public School (DMPS) has announced its newest initiative on Central Campus – Skilled Trade Alliance. The program, which students participate in for three years, will give an overview of the skilled construction trades in which they may pick an apprenticeship upon completion/graduation.

Students focus on the commercial construction process in this introductory program exploring pre-apprenticeships. They will work with experienced professionals in the field as well as representatives of local contractors and local apprenticeship programs.

MII has been working with the DMPS to include masonry as part of the curriculum, including having skilled MII members teach the masonry unit and support the program with material, financial donations and volunteers.

Jeff Forrest - Business Agent for the local Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Union 3 - has joined the Advisory Committee for the masonry industry.

To learn more about the Skilled Trade Alliance, click [here](#).



## MII Hosts DMPS Skilled Trades Academy Summer Camp

On June 14, nearly a hundred 8th and 9th graders attended the DMPS' summer camp to introduce students to the skilled trades. Each group was given an overview of bricklaying and the BAC apprenticeship program. Special thanks to the following members who helped make this learning opportunity available: **Rhino Materials, TCC Materials, Glen-Gery Brick and Tile, BAC3, Forrest and Associate, Architectural Products of Iowa and Star Equipment.**



*MII participated in the DMPS annual 'Block Party' where students and the community visited the school to learn about its programs. MII's booth included a hands on demonstration on masonry.*



## Silica Training Offered in Des Moines

The Masonry Contractors Association of America (MCAA) are hosting over 30 Silica Train the Trainer programs around the country. One is scheduled in Des Moines on July 27. Other locations around the Midwest are scheduled as well.

OSHA's silica rule will require all jobsites to have:

1. A written exposure control plan.
2. A competent person who has been trained on the exposure control plan and silica on a jobsite.

The MCAA's Silica Train-the-Trainer Course is a six-hour program that will train a key employee to train other employees to be a competent person with regard to the written exposure control plan. Certificates will be provided to those who complete the program.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## MII Presents its 1<sup>st</sup> AIA Dine & Discover

MII presented a one-hour continuing education program to the South East AIA Section on June 8 at Backpocket Brewery in Coralville. Jenny Stephenson, MII's association director, Scott Ellingson, TCC Materials and Mark Guetzko, Seedorff Masonry presented a masonry program to approximately 25 architects.



Visit  
[MasonryInstituteofIowa.org](http://MasonryInstituteofIowa.org)  
and login today!

MII has taken the website the next step with member logins! Recently MII members received an email with their username and password.

Once logged in, members can updated their password.

Contributing members can now pay their contributions on-line, and dues renewals can also be paid on-line. Also, when registering for an event or sponsorship, log in and your info will automatically be populated.

Contact Jenny Stephenson with any questions.



week in the first couple of years. Now, we're lucky if we do a half dozen basements in a year. Not that block isn't competitive, but there are a lot less masons that are interested in working in a hole in the ground if they can stay busy laying lighter weight units above grade. Now, we see a lot more of the CMU units we produce being used in decorative fashion on commercial buildings. We've also grown a lot more dependent on landscaping walls etc.; which account for close to half our production now.

It's been interesting to see the technical advancements the industry has been making; including high insulation units (OneStep), labor saving units (ProBlock), and the progression to Spec Mix (preblended mortar). I remember when the Spec Mix first came on the market and the large number of contractors said it was too expensive and they'd never be using it. Times change. On the horizon, the advancement of Building Information Modeling (BIM) and it's applications with masonry are very intriguing. It seems like every year there's something new in terms of texture, color, design that helps to keep our industry fresh.

I have a tremendous pride and respect for Charles Nicolay and Dick Felice (among others) who saw the opportunity to get labor and material suppliers together back in the 1970's to promote the industry which we all rely on for our livelihood.

**A large number of similar organizations have come and gone over the years and we should be proud of what we've accomplished through the years.**

While we don't always agree on everything, we provide a platform to share ideas and promote the use of masonry for a large variety of uses. I think by combining our efforts with those of the national organizations we can see masonry grow to new heights. It's been a fun industry to be a part of and I look forward to tomorrow's challenges.

## Pat Conway to Speak at AIA, Iowa Convention

Pat Conway, Director, Industry Development and Technical Services, for the International Masonry Institute, was one of 24 speakers picked to present a sixty minute continuing education program at the AIA, Iowa annual convention. He will present his program ***Designing & Detailing High-Performing Masonry RainScreen Walls*** on (tentatively) on Thursday, September 28 at 10:45am. MII is excited to help facilitate Pat as a speaker to expose more architects to proper masonry design.

## MII Hosts SEAIA's May Monthly Meeting

The Masonry Institute of Iowa, Rhino Materials and Architectural Products, Inc. hosted the Structural Engineers Association of Iowa's monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 9. Nearly 30 structural engineers learned the history of concrete masonry. They then toured the Rhino Materials plant with Andy Ward of Architectural Products to receive one-hour of continuing education for their professional development. Thank you to all the MII members who helped make this CE event a success!

