

unions, and manufacturers are welcomed and encouraged.

Workmanship the key

The association has identified the major issue that residential masons (and by extension) the whole industry needs to address: workmanship. The need for more skilled workers and better workmanship emphasizes the importance of training.

- **RMCA will coordinate and assist established local training programs nationwide, but will do more than just train.** One problem residential mason contractors often face is that there are no established workmanship standards, and no apprenticeships required. Two weeks on the job and a worker who has just learned how to mix mortar thinks he can compete on his own.
- **RMCA will set skill level standards and certify masons who meet those requirements.** There are already excellent programs that teach masonry skills, but these tend to be local and are not available everywhere. RMCA has a standardized curriculum that can be adapted to all states.
- **RMCA will support local training programs and work with them to set national certification criteria.** Mason contractors have to be good business people in addition to their craft skills. RMCA will certify residential contractors that want to sharpen their business skills in such diverse topics as legal issues, workman's compensation insurance, standards of quality assurance, safety, and better business practices. Collectively, RMCA members will determine and

"The residential mason is one of the few trades that allow the individual artistry and skill of the craftsman to flavor an entire project. Now there is a place to share our knowledge, to educate the next generation, and pass along our love of this trade."

—**Jamie Holliday**
Holliday Masonry
Woodinville, Wash.
Vice President - Residential
Masonry Contractors
Association

establish quality standards for residential masonry work, including brick, block, stone, veneers, structural brick, and fireplaces.

- **RMCA will represent residential mason contractors on national issues.** The association will work on code development, green home design, and creation of fireplace emission standards.

RMCA is planning its first national meeting during the World of Masonry, January 22-26, in Las Vegas. Details about the gathering are posted on the association's Web site (listed below). A link on the site will take the visitor

directly to the registration form for the 2007 World of Concrete/World of Masonry. RMCA members can register at no charge for an Exhibits-Only admission. WOC/WOM attendees will have the opportunity to visit about 1600 exhibitor booths and attend more than 125 educational seminars.

Residential contractors interested in joining RMCA should visit the Web site at www.residentialmasonrycontractors.com or call 206-724-4242. The annual membership fee is \$225.

Barbara Headrick has devoted many years to the promotion of masonry. She recently returned from Santiago Chile, where she spearheaded a group of masonry tradeswomen that taught modern technologies and techniques to members of the Chilean workforce. Headrick currently serves as the Executive Director of RMCA and is leading its efforts to become a national organization.



RMCA Mission Statement

To promote the masonry industry through proper training of our work force, and to promote the ethical treatment of both our colleagues and our employees. To educate the design community of not only the beauty of masonry, but also its superiority and versatility over other building products. To carry our industry forward with professionalism and pride.

