



# MCAC NEWS BRIEF

A Snapshot of MCAC Headlines | 11.25.2025 | Issue 51



Proudly Serving the Southern California Masonry Industry Since 1947.

## Top Stories In This Briefing



MCAC Elects  
2026/27 Board of Directors



MCAC - MITA - BAC 3 &  
4 Join Forces to Get  
California Apprentices to  
2026 National Skills  
Contest



California Competition Results  
are In! And the Winners Are...

### MCAC Elects 2026/27 Board of Directors

The Mason Contractors Association of California (MCAC) is pleased to announce and congratulate its newly elected 2026/27 Board of Directors, following electronic voting that closed on October 31, 2025.

The officers elected to serve a two-year term beginning January 1, 2026, are:

- **President:** Armando “Mando” Echeverria, Masonry Solutions – San Diego
- **Vice President:** Josh Estrella, PTS Masonry – Northern California
- **Treasurer:** Elliot Granstrom, Granstrom Masonry – Southern California
- **Secretary:** Ramiro Flores, Pacific Bay Masonry – Northern California

In accordance with MCAC bylaws, the office of **Immediate Past President** will be assumed by **Dan Ricketts** of GBC Concrete & Masonry Construction, who served as MCAC President in 2024/25. While not elected, the Past President retains full voting rights and board privileges.



The new board will be installed at the MCAC 171st State Meeting on January 20, 2026 at 9:00 a.m., held in conjunction with the World of Concrete in Las Vegas.

As we welcome our incoming leaders, we also extend heartfelt thanks to **Ken Tejeda** of R&R Masonry, **outgoing Past President**, for his many years of dedicated service. Ken's financial expertise, leadership in grant efforts, and support for MCAC initiatives have been invaluable. His commitment has helped strengthen the association, and his presence will be greatly missed.

Thank you to everyone who voted. We look forward to continuing MCAC's mission to Inform, Represent, and Connect California's masonry community in the coming term.



### MCAC Office Will be Closed November 27 & 28 for the Thanksgiving Holiday



*MCAC wishes you and your loved ones a Happy Thanksgiving full of family, friends, too much good food, and lots to be grateful for. □□□*



### MCAC - MITA - BAC's 3 & 4 Join Forces to Get California Apprentices to 2026 National Skills Challenge Contest in Las Vegas



BAC LOCAL 3  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



California's finest masonry apprentices are heading to Las Vegas in January to compete on the national stage after strong showings at two regional qualifying events held in Southern and Northern California.

On **October 25, 2025**, twenty apprentices competed at the new **Angelus Block facility in Rialto, CA**, in a Southern California regional Masonry Skills Challenge. Earlier in the year, on **April 6, 2025**, apprentices from across Northern California gathered in **Tracy, CA**, for the **BAC Local 3 Masonry Skills Contest**. The first-place winners from each region and skill level—first, second, and third year—earned the honor of representing California at the national competition.

The **2026 MCAA Masonry Skills Challenge** will take place at the **World of Concrete** in Las Vegas on **January 21, 2026**, where top apprentices from across the U.S. and select international competitions will face off. Competitors will build their assigned projects—sight unseen—without help from instructors, employers, or anyone else. With only three hours on the clock and materials supplied on site, the event tests precision, speed, and craftsmanship under pressure. Awards will be presented to the top three apprentices in each skill level.

## California's First-Place Apprentices Advancing to Nationals

### Southern California Qualifiers (Rialto, CA – October 2025)

**1st Year:** Ryan Cantrell, Winegardner Masonry, Inc.

**2nd Year:** Seth A. Cameron, Frank S Smith Masonry, Inc.

**3rd Year:** Wilson Romero Benavente Chan, Masonry Concepts, Inc.

### Northern California Qualifiers (Tracy, CA – April 2025)

**1st Year:** Cesar Vasquez, BAC Local 3 JATEC

**2nd Year:** Gonzalo Rios Cruz, BAC Local 3 JATEC

**3rd Year:** Brad Nelson, BAC Local 3 JATEC

**MCAC** is proud to sponsor the 2026 Masonry Skills Challenge registration fees for the October qualifiers, with BAC Local 3 providing sponsorship for the April qualifiers. We extend our appreciation to **MITA, BAC Local 3, and BAC Local 4** for facilitating these regional competitions and helping support apprentices with travel assistance so California is strongly represented at the national level.

Congratulations to all of our apprentice competitors—California is rooting for you!



## 2025 California Competition Announcements Continue...

### Bricklayer 500 California Regional



Howard Cole wins California's

### Fastest Trowel on the Block



On October 25, 2025, in Rialto, CA, twenty teams had 20 minutes to lay it all on the line at the California regional Fastest Trowel on the

## SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500 Regional Competition

On October 10th, 2025, in Sacramento, CA mason **Howard Cole** and tender **Richard King** with **NuWay Masonry** took first-place at the SMBL500 California Regional event. Now they will move forward to compete in the [\*\*SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® Championship in Las Vegas, Nevada\*\*](#), at the World of Concrete Tradeshow!

Laying 524 bricks in 60 minutes, the duo topped the competition with an impressive 120 brick margin above the second-place competitors. This team's skills and speed won them the "California's Best Bricklayer" award for a total of \$500 in prize money while securing their tickets to Vegas.

Congratulations Howard and Richard!

See full contest results [here](#).

Block (FTOB) event, and three competitors rose to the top.

### Top finishers of the 2025 FTOB competition:

**1st Place** – Antonio Gomez Ayala, K&S Masonry, Inc.  
**2nd Place** – Ritchie King, R. King Construction  
**3rd Place** – Venustiano Ruvaleaba, Haxton Masonry, Inc.

**Antonio** and **Ritchie** will advance to represent California on the national stage at the [\*\*2026 Fastest Trowel on the Block competition in Las Vegas on January 21, 2026\*\*](#) where they will compete against the best masons from across the country.

Competitors were challenged to lay as many masonry units as possible in the allotted timeframe while constructing a 30-block-long wall. Judges evaluated not only production speed but also craftsmanship—factoring in plumb, level, consistency, and overall workmanship to identify the state's most capable trowel.

Congratulations to all three competitors!



## Upcoming Events

**MCAC 171<sup>ST</sup>  
STATE MEETING AND  
2026/27 BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS INSTALLATION**

• SAVE THE DATE •

**JANUARY 20  
2026**  
9:00AM - 12:00PM

Las Vegas, NV  
BOOK YOUR TRAVEL  
REGISTRATION OPENS SOON

*Registration Opening Soon*

January 20, 2026  
9am - 12pm

*\*Note: Time change from 1pm - 4pm*

Las Vegas Convention Center (LVCC)  
South Hall

**Phil Vermeulen** is officially joining our speaker lineup. As one of California's most respected voices on licensing, legislation, and regulatory affairs, Phil is uniquely qualified to help our industry navigate what's ahead in 2026.

More speakers are in the queue, and we're building a don't-miss panel designed to prepare masonry businesses for the new year.

→**Member Perk!** FREE World of Concrete show floor passes with your MCAC/MCAA Member number.

Need your member number?  
Contact the MCAC office:

[alexis@mca-ca.org](mailto:alexis@mca-ca.org) or [julie@mca-ca.org](mailto:julie@mca-ca.org).

**MCAC**  
**5<sup>TH</sup> LEGACY GOLF  
TOURNAMENT**

• SAVE THE DATE •

**MAY 1ST  
2026**  
EAGLE GLEN  
COUNTRY CLUB  
Corona, CA  
SHOTGUN START: 8:30AM

*Registration Opening Soon*

May 1, 2026  
7:30am Check-In Opens  
8:30am Shotgun Start

Eagle Glen Golf Club  
Corona, CA

*Heads Up! We're Starting Early to make sure MCAC lands squarely on Santa's Nice List. ☺*

*Why?*

Because our **5th Annual MCAC Golf Raffle** is coming up, and we're determined to make it the best one yet.



A little holiday wish list is coming soon—and we hope you'll help Santa out when the time comes. ☺

Stay tuned!

Julie

## WORDS TO LIVE BY

*"Do something wonderful. People may imitate it."* – Albert Schweitzer

Mason Contractors Association of California, Inc. | [www.mca-ca.org](http://www.mca-ca.org)



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