



The New Jersey BAC Labor/Management Committee promotes craftworkers and contractors of the trowel trades. Shown above are brick/block-laying, plaster, marble, stone, restoration, concrete finishing and pointing/cleaning/caulking.

Committee Promotes Masonry in New Jersey

Masonry, one of the oldest building techniques known to man, is the story of a strong and safe material installed by skilled and highly trained hands.

From the Egyptian pyramids to the Taj Mahal, masonry and its materials—stone, tile, brick—have provided structures that endure. Today, masonry is used for homes, schools and government buildings. And because it is natural, durable and green, masonry has much to offer in this era of environmentally responsible construction. After 6,000 years, masonry continues to be a fundamental part of the building industry.

In New Jersey, the tradition of masonry is alive and well thanks to the work of the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Labor/Management Committee, a partnership between the union and its contractor associations, the Building Contractors of NJ and Masonry Contractors of New Jersey. The committee's goal is to negotiate equitable contracts that provide fair wages, comprehensive benefits and a safe working environment for skilled contractors and craftworkers.

Quality masonry construction depends on more than just the materials, of course. It also depends on the technical skills and knowledge of the mason.

To ensure construction excellence, union members of the New Jersey trowel trades—representing masonry crafts including brick and block, tile, terrazzo, stone, marble, plaster, concrete and restoration—are supported by a collaboration of three groups, whose joint mission is to advance union masonry. Through an exhaustive array of programs, the Masonry Contractors of New Jersey, the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Administrative District Council of New Jersey (BAC/ADC of NJ) and the International Masonry Institute

(IMI), a strategic alliance between the two groups, offer union masons, contractors and design professionals the opportunity for continuing education, state-of-the art training and best business practices essential to staying current and competitive in their craft.

New markets also are key to masonry's success. But finding those markets requires three conditions: contractors have to feel comfortable embracing new technologies, craftworkers have to be trained in proper installation, and designers have to feel confident in their specifications. Expos are a great way to achieve all three.

That is why the IMI/BAC New Products Initiative includes a series of regional expos to give industry workers a close look at promising new products that complement sustainability goals and reflect the variety of BAC skills, including terra cotta, ceramic and stone façade systems, concrete flooring, insulated concrete forms, autoclaved aerated concrete and grout.

Meanwhile, the Masonry Contractors of New Jersey's Annual Trade Expo is attended by architects, engineers and contractors. The Expo features table-top displays and accredited educational programs. All programs offer valuable information about issues such as sustainable design, ASTM Standards and specifications, proper installation techniques, energy efficiency, building codes, new technologies, innovative products and materials and more.

Creating structures with individual units of material—brick by brick or stone by stone—requires the utmost skill and training from the individual craftworker. Through collaboration, union masons in New Jersey have access to the latest techniques, training tools and education, enabling them to deliver quality masonry construction today and tomorrow. ■

NJ BAC Labor/Management Committee

3281 Route 206
Bordentown, NJ 08505

Phone: (609) 324-9681

Fax: (609) 324-9685

Email: bacnj1@yahoo.com

Web: www.bacadcj.com

Representing: Approximately 5,000 craftworkers and 300 signatory contractors

Committee Members: Richard Tolson, John Capo, Carol Ciesielski, Jack Kocsis Jr.

Product/Service: Union masonry construction systems

Year Founded: 1993

