



STONE
BUSINESS

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2004 Pinnacle Awards

floor
warming

CONTINUING EDUCATION



Todd Spaeth of APL Stone in Hastings, Minn., recently attended the Technical Center at Park Industries in St. Cloud, Minn., to receive hands-on training on the company's stone equipment. The center's seven trainers aid more than 400 customers annually on accurately and efficiently operating equipment; approximately 60 percent of the instruction is direct hand-on training. (Photo courtesy Park Industries)

LARDNER LEADS MIA

LOS ANGELES – Scott Lardner of Rocky Mountain Stone Co. in Albuquerque, N.M., is the president of the **Marble Institute of America Inc. (MIA)**

Lardner took over the presidency from **Paul Vigna** of Artisan Tile & Marble of New Jersey in Somerset, N.J., during the group's annual meeting Oct. 27-30.

"It is truly an honor to serve MIA in this capacity at this exciting time, when membership continues to swell in response to the very real advances MIA is making in serving the needs of the natural-stone professional and the natural-stone industry as a whole," Lardner said.

Other MIA officers for 2005 include Vice President **Kenny Krebs** of Tennessee Granite & Marble Co. LLC, Hermitage, Tenn.; Secretary **Jack Seiders** of Architectural Granite & Marble Inc., Austin, Texas; and Treasurer **Jim Hogan** of Carrara Marble Company of America Inc., City of Industry, Calif. Vigna will serve as immediate past president.

The MIA board of directors now

includes **Guido C. Gliori**, Grazzini Brothers & Company, Eagan, Minn.; **Vic Green**, VIC International Corp., Knoxville, Tenn.; **Jesus Gonzalez**, Marble World SA de CV, Garza Garcia, Mexico; **Anthony Ieraci**, Ciot Imports Co., Ltd., Montreal, Quebec; **Jim Janochoski**, Cold Spring Granite Co., Cold Spring, Minn.; **Abraham Mekuria**, Mitin Pvt. Ltd. Mining Co., Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; **Brett S. Rugo**, Rugo Stone, Lorton, Va.; **Mark Shedrofsky**, Stone Source, New York; and **Mario Venezia**, Pisani Brothers SpA, Avenza-Carrara, Italy

The MIA also enrolled 50 new members during its annual meeting, which was held in conjunction with StonExpo 2004.

"We expect several more memberships to come in from the show and that we'll reach an all-time high of 1,200 members by December 31," said Garis F. Distelhorst, MIA executive vice president.

NEW STONE ASSOCIATION

ASHEVILLE, N.C. – A new stone trade group is taking shape for 2005.

The **National Stone Institute**, announced in mid-September, will address needs of stone designers, fabricators, installers, and maintenance/restoration professionals, according to Fred Hueston, executive director of the new group.

Hueston, who also heads up the **National Training Center (NTC) for Stone and Masonry Trades** in Asheville, also notes that the group is for those working with dimensional and engineered stone.

"We plan to offer a long line of useful benefits that will more than pay for the membership dues, which are being offered at a reasonable cost," Hueston says. "The most important benefit is that we will listen to your suggestions and try our best to implement your ideas."

Members also will be asked to help in establishing good, sound standards and procedures for the industry, he adds.

Planned benefits include a work-exchange program; certification in

stone fabrication, restoration and inspection; publications discount; seminars; consulting; informational resources; and OSHA compliance assistance. Initial annual membership dues are \$250.

For additional information contact the International Stone Institute at 828-255-4510, or through its Website at www.internationalstoneinstitute.com.

LATICRETE BONDS WITH 9/11 MEMORIAL



Image courtesy LATICRETE

EAST MEADOW, N.Y. – A planned memorial for Nassau County, N.Y., victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks will get plenty of construction help, thanks to an effort from **LATICRETE International Inc.**

Bethany, Conn.-based LATICRETE will donate the installation materials for construction of The Nassau County 9/11 Memorial Project in Eisenhower Park. The memorial, with the theme of "A place to remember, a place to reflect," will commemorate the approximately 275 victims of the attacks from Nassau County.

The memorial design, created by STRIGA GA, a design collective based in Nassau County, features two 35'-tall interconnected polished aluminum towers rising above a reflection pool. The base for the towers, as well as the bed of the pool, will be polished Absolute Black granite; flamed red granite will make up the pool's vertical-base sides and surrounding seating.

Project architect Phil Gavosto chose Laticrete products for the memorial because "the key issue is durability.

"I have used Laticrete products for many years," he adds. "There are no other products I would trust for this memorial. There must be no leaks and no cracking."

Unions and construction workers,

including the Empire State Regional Council of Carpenters, District 7, and Local 25 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, are donating all the labor for the memorial.

Two family members of local 9/11 victims – a mother and a widow – broke ground for the memorial last March 11. Dignitaries at the ceremony included President George W. Bush, New York Governor George Pataki, and former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

STONE SHOW CHANGES CONTINUE

Although 2004's stone-industry shows ended last October, two competing shows continued to make news right up to the end of the year.

ITSS Expos, producers of the International Tile and Stone Shows, announced in December that the National Training Center for Stone and Masonry Trades (NTC) will develop and produce education sessions at the three events slated for 2005.

"We are extremely pleased that NTC has joined with ITSS to provide world-class educational seminars at all ITSS events in Las Vegas, Miami and New York," says Richard Caires, ITSS president. "We offered our first seminars at ITSS-Las Vegas this past October, and the positive response warranted expansion of the program. NTC and its founder, Fred Hueston, are well-known in the industry with an excellent reputation for delivering the very best in educational programs.

"Mr. Hueston will structure a comprehensive series of seminars on important stone-related subjects deemed most interesting to attendees, and will bring together industry leaders as speakers," Caires adds.

As with the original series at Las Vegas last year, all 2005 ITSS educational sessions will be offered free of charge to show attendees.

ITSS also received the backing in late November of the North American Stone Machinery Association (NASMA). The organization of capital-equipment compa-

nies endorsed the ITSS events in Miami and Las Vegas in 2005; the group previously endorsed the Las Vegas show last year.

NASMA includes AGM USA, Z. Bavelloni U.S.A., Breton USA, CMS/Brembana North America, EuroStone Machine/Pyramid Supply, International Machine Corp., Marmo Meccanica USA and Salem Stone.

Hanley Wood LLC, the new owners of the StonExpo event, literally made its first major move last year by changing the dates of the 2005 event from mid-November in Las Vegas to Oct. 20-22. The Dallas-based company, which bought the event from the StonExpo Federation last October, also announced that 2005 exhibitor rates will remain the same or possibly be lower than 2004's schedule, with lower prices for large-volume exhibit space.

Hanley Wood also noted that a slate of industry groups would remain as official sponsoring organizations, including the Marble Institute of America Inc. (MIA), the



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