

UTAH MASONRY COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER



A Message from your
Executive Director

Connected by Masonry

May was one of those months that showed how connected this industry really is.

From apprenticeship graduation and legislative conversations to member spotlights, education, and industry partnerships, each effort supports the same goal: keeping masonry strong, visible, and valued in Utah.

As we head into summer, UMC will continue building on that momentum through upcoming events, project submissions, education opportunities, and continued collaboration.

Thank you to our members, board, instructors, partners, and supporters for continuing to show up for Utah masonry.

Cassie Mejia
Executive Director
Utah Masonry Council

● May Update

New Member: CrewTracks

UMC is excited to welcome CrewTracks as a new member. CrewTracks supports construction teams with tools designed to simplify field reporting, crew management, time tracking, and communication between the field and office.

Member Spotlights

This month, UMC is highlighting several valued members and their contributions to the masonry industry:

Delta Stone

_A trusted name in natural stone, Delta Stone continues to support quality masonry construction through durable materials, craftsmanship, and industry commitment.

Mountain Valley Stone

_Mountain Valley Stone provides stone products that help bring lasting beauty, strength, and character to projects throughout the region.

RJ Masonry

_RJ Masonry represents the skill, reliability, and craftsmanship that continue to strengthen Utah's masonry industry.

Board Member Spotlight: Jed Heath

UMC is also recognizing board member Jed Heath for his continued leadership and involvement in industry outreach, education, and workforce development efforts. His commitment to showing up for students, schools, and the masonry community continues to make a meaningful impact.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

July 19 | Mad About Masonry Golf Tournament
July 31 | |EIMD | Call for Submission **CLOSES**
Nov 20 | SAVE THE DATE | Excellence in Masonry Design

EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY ARTICLES

Remembering Joh Chrysler

UMC joins the masonry community in remembering Joh Chrysler and recognizing his impact on the industry. [READ MORE](#)

CMHA Research: Fiber-Reinforced Grout for High-Strength Steel Reinforcement

New research explores fiber-reinforced grout and its potential role in masonry systems using high-strength steel reinforcement. [READ MORE](#)

TMS Masonry Educators Workshop Launch

The Masonry Society has launched information for the 2026 Masonry Educators Workshop, supporting continued masonry education and engagement.. [LEARN MORE](#)

Block Design Collective: Region 5 Technical Director Update

The Region 5 update shares technical insights and ongoing efforts connected to concrete masonry education, design, and outreach. [READ MORE](#)

Utah Masonry Council SEAU Article

UMC continues to support education around masonry codes, standards, and technical updates, including information related to TMS 402/602-2022 updates. [READ MORE](#)



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

on May 20, UMC participated in a Legislative Breakfast and met with Congressman Thomas Peterson and Congressman Mike Kennedy.

These conversations help keep masonry, workforce development, and industry needs in front of decision-makers while strengthening relationships that support long-term growth.



STAYING INVOLVED

Education Update

Climate Responsive Design Webinar Held May 19

UMC hosted the Climate Responsive Design webinar on May 19, with a dozen architects signed up for the session. The webinar focused on masonry's role in creating durable, efficient, and climate-responsive buildings. Education opportunities like this continue to help connect architects, engineers, designers, and construction professionals with masonry knowledge that supports better project decisions.

INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

UMC / AGC Partnership & Strategic Planning Session

UMC also participated in a strategic planning session with AGC, continuing discussions around partnership, shared goals, industry needs, and ways to better support Utah's construction community. Collaboration with aligned industry partners helps strengthen advocacy, workforce development, education, and the overall visibility of masonry across the state.

NEW MEMBER CREW TRACKS

Welcome CrewTracks as a new member.

CrewTracks supports construction teams with tools designed to simplify field reporting, crew management, time tracking, and communication between the field and office.



THAT'S A WRAP | APPRENTICESHIP GRADUATION - MAY 22 -

UMC celebrated apprenticeship graduation on May 22, recognizing the hard work, dedication, and progress of Utah's masonry apprentices.

Graduation is always an important reminder that workforce development is not just about filling jobs. It is about building careers, strengthening the trade, and supporting the next generation of skilled masonry professionals.

Congratulations to the graduates and thank you to the instructors, employers, families, and industry partners who continue to support their success.



VIEW ALL PHOTOS HERE

MEMBERS WHO BRING UTAH MASONRY TO LIFE



RJ Masonry, Inc.
Stone • Block • Brick • Pavers • Fireplaces



MAY 2026

APPRENTICESHIP GRADUATION

Utah's Upcoming Masons

Utah Masonry Council



VIEW ALL
PHOTOS
HERE



We Don't Have a Manpower Problem, There is a Proficiency Problem

Author: Cassie Mejia

Across the construction industry, subcontractors continue to face delays and costly coordination issues that stem less from a lack of workers and more from gaps in construction management proficiency. Too often, customers and others in the build community are led to believe that masonry labor shortages are the primary cause of these problems, when in reality the issue is often inefficient planning and execution.

Although the industry is experiencing a decline in the number of skilled craftspeople, the causes of project delays go well beyond the number of masons assigned to a job. When teams fail to build smarter, projects often require more manpower, more money, and more time than necessary. That inefficiency can create the false impression that there are not enough masons available, when the real issue is how the work is being managed.

Masons are capable of delivering complete vertical building systems while working productively alongside other trades, often faster than many other structural subcontractors. Improving coordination and management proficiency is essential to unlocking that productivity.

The industry recognizes the decline in skilled labor and has responded by expanding training opportunities, increasing the number of registered apprenticeships, and using technology to improve productivity. These efforts are helping contractors strengthen the workforce while also improving jobsite performance.

Registered apprenticeship programs are among the most effective tools for addressing labor shortages in the skilled trades. They pair paid, on-the-job learning with classroom instruction, allowing workers to earn while they learn and giving employers a direct role in developing job-ready talent.

- The registered apprenticeship system continues to expand across the United States.
- There is a nationwide network of more than 60 training centers.
- Western states with training facilities include Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.
- These programs help preserve trade knowledge, improve safety and workmanship, and create access to long-term careers in masonry and related crafts.

In the end, solving today's construction challenges requires more than simply adding workers—it requires building stronger systems, better training, and smarter project execution. By investing in management proficiency and workforce development through tools like registered apprenticeships, the industry can improve productivity, reduce delays, and deliver higher-quality results. The path forward is clear: when we focus on proficiency, we strengthen both the workforce and the future of construction.

MAY 2026

CSJ EQUIPMENT

UMC BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

General Manager | Jed Heath



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South Jordan, UT 84009



@csjequipmentutah



Member Spotlight: CSJ EQUIPMENT

Built on Experience, Relationships, and a Commitment to the Trade

For Jed Heath, General Manager of CSJ, masonry has never been just a career path. It has been part of his life from the beginning.

Growing up around the trade, Jed's first introduction to masonry came through his father's small residential masonry company. Like many who truly understand the industry, he started from the ground up, working as a laborer, then a tender, and eventually a mason. That hands-on experience gave him an early appreciation for the skill, effort, and craftsmanship behind the work.

From there, his career continued to grow across multiple sides of the industry. Jed joined a local brick manufacturer, where he gained experience in the yard, at the order desk, in outside sales, and later as a location manager. He then moved into a territory manager role for a manufactured stone company, overseeing representatives throughout the western United States. Each step added perspective and prepared him for his current role as General Manager of CSJ, where the company specializes in masonry and concrete products.

What continues to motivate Jed is simple: masonry lasts.

He is drawn to the beauty, strength, and durability of the materials, along with the satisfaction that comes from seeing a project take shape. There is something meaningful about being able to point to a completed project and know the work behind it. Just as important are the relationships built along the way. Many customers have become genuine friends, and being able to support their businesses and watch them succeed is one of the most rewarding parts of the job.

Looking ahead, workforce development is one area Jed is especially passionate about. He believes there is real opportunity in introducing young people to masonry and helping them see the careers available within the trade. Job fairs, career days, and student outreach continue to be important ways to spark interest and bring new talent into the industry.

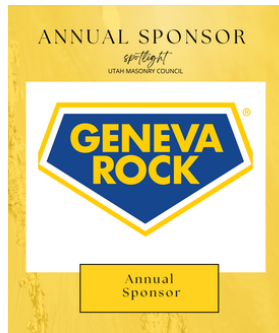
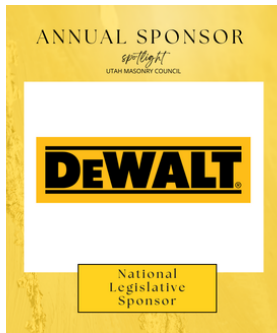
At the same time, Jed sees awareness as one of masonry's biggest challenges. Over time, masonry has slipped out of focus within parts of the building community. He believes the industry must continue promoting its value to architects, builders, and designers while also doing a better job of engaging the next generation of workers.

Outside of work, family and community are central to Jed's life. He enjoys spending time outdoors with his family, and he and his wife are actively involved in their local church, where they dedicate time to working with youth. He also organizes an annual motorcycle ride in memory of his brother, who passed away from cancer.

Through every role, Jed's connection to masonry has remained steady: a respect for the craft, a commitment to relationships, and a belief in the future of the trade.

PARTNERS WHO HELP BUILD UTAH MASONRY COUNCIL

CURRENT ANNUAL SPONSORS – THANK YOU



ANNUAL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

What is an Annual Sponsorship?
An Annual Sponsorship puts your company name and logo on event signage and emails and provides free attendance to events.

Why Should You Become a Sponsor?
It generates greater name recognition and visibility for your company. Whether you are looking to sponsor a specific event, be an annual supporter of UMC or market your services, we have the opportunity for you!

Who Can Buy Them?
Only members of the Utah Masonry Council can participate in the Annual Sponsorship Program.

What's the Advantage?
Besides receiving year-long visibility, you can also pay quarterly and know you haven't missed any opportunities available to promote your company/organization.

SPONSOR BENEFITS	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$1,000	\$500
Seats at Excellence in Masonry Design Awards Banquet	8	6	-	-
Seats at Apprenticeship Graduation	8	6	-	-
Registration at UMC Annual Meeting & Golf Tournament	4	2	1	0
Booth Exhibit at UMC Annual Meeting & Golf Tournament	YES	YES	YES	YES
Registration at UMC Mixers and Sponsored Training Courses	8	6	2	1
Registration in the Masonry Certification Classes	8	6	2	1
Banner and a Booth at Masonry Skills Competition	YES	YES	-	-
Banner at Masonry Skills Competition	YES	YES	YES	-
Recognition at all UMC Events/ Table Tents & Banner Signage	YES	YES	YES	-
Logo displayed on Website, upcoming event emails & newsletters	YES	YES	YES	YES
Social Media Recognition (Company Spotlights)	YES	YES	YES	YES
Company Name Badge Recognition at all Events	YES	YES	YES	YES

www.utahmasonrycouncil.org

LET'S BUILD TOGETHER – SUPPORT UTAH MASONRY

- Invest in workforce development & apprenticeships
- Support education and continuing learning
- Strengthen industry advocacy
- Connect with Utah's masonry decision-makers
- Build long-term relationships in a trusted trade community

GET INVOLVED | BECOME A SPONSOR | LEARN MORE...