

Richard Smith - Executive Director

From: Richard Smith [execdir@mha-net.org]
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To: execdir@mha-net.org
Subject: News from Masonry Heater Association of North America



November, 2008



The Mortar Board

Memberships, Wildacres, Committees

Dear Member,

Here are a few things that your association has been up to:

- In 2008 marketing has become active and MHA attended two important trade shows. A directory of builders and suppliers was developed and other marketing ideas are being developed.
- The education committee is really on the move. A new curriculum and occupational analysis is being worked on. Educational modules are being developed with professional video production.
- Our annual meeting at Wildacres is one of the best if not the best. The auction at Wildacres will feature not one but two major items donated by manufacturers.
- The bookstore's Heater Portfolio is revised, bigger and better than ever, and even available on CD.
- I am working on Federal Grants to help our education committee develop an educational outreach.

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- MHA finances are in order and in good shape.
- Newsletters are being sent out regularly.

The list goes on and on. Membership continues to grow because we are the association that is proactive

when it comes to Masonry Heaters.

It's also time for renewal of memberships. MHA dues run from Jan. 1 for the calendar year. It was said by Charlie Jones:

"The only difference between where you are right now, and where you'll be next year at this same time, are the people you meet and the books you read". Well said, he could have added the associations you are active in.

If you are interested in masonry heaters, if you want to expand your knowledge of them and learn from the pro's, if you are a professional or a layman, the Masonry Heater Association of North America is here, pro-active, and working for you.

We hope you'll renew your membership or join us if you're not a member already. **MHA is still the association of choice when it comes to Masonry Heaters.**

Richard Smith

Executive Director

MHA Membership



MHA membership has grown to almost 100 full voting members. A growth rate of about 33% over the last few years. It appears it will continue to grow, making MHA larger and stronger.

Full voting membership not only includes the right to vote but also a presence in the MHA webpages' member directory. It also allows you to enter a special "members only lounge on the website and attend the annual meeting at Wildacres. As a full voting member you take a vested interest in the association, it's administration, business, education and future. The price is the same as last year. **\$275.**

If you are not a professional masonry heater builder and want to support the association, possibly come to the annual meeting and receive newsletters, then you can be an **associate member**. The price is the same as last year. **\$125**

If you would like to join or renew, below is the link to the Membership Application Form. Print it out then mail to or fax it back to the MHA office. The Membership Application Form can be found at: [MHA Membership Application Form](#)

The form also allows you to sign up for the annual meeting at Wildacres, N.C. On behalf of the board of directors and myself, we invite you to join a winning team and be a member of the Masonry Heater Association of North America. Feel free to email or phone if you have any questions.

Annual Meeting at Wildacres



MHA will once again hold its annual meeting at the Wildacres Retreat in NC. **The dates are April 10-16th.** The meeting is for members only, it is 6 nights of lodging and meals for **a great price of \$375.**

In addition to the annual business meeting, we will also have indoor and outdoor seminars and workshops. New this year is the certified heater mason's will hold a get-together. We also will have not one but possibly two keynote speakers. The outdoor workshops will feature a large soapstone 5 run heater w. firebrick core and white oven plus Tulikivi will have a heater and Tulikivi representative(s) will demonstrate how to construct it. There will be a Lime mortar workshop with a kiln to burn the lime. There's much much more. Here's a draft of the proposed agenda:

[2009 Agenda Draft](#)

Space is limited to 70 attendees. There are people who have expressed a desire for me to sign them up immediately, which means there will need to be a waiting list. Remember, reservations are done on a first come - first serve basis. **Don't wait**, renew your membership or join right now. The annual meetings reservation form is the application form, just check the box for Wildacres and let me know if you want a specific roommate. Here is the link to the application form for membership and reservations for the annual meeting at Wildacres, N.C.

[MHA membership form and Annual meeting reservation](#)

If you haven't been to Wildacres Retreat near Asheville, North Carolina. Here is their website. It's a great place and MHA has been fortunate enough to use their facilities for many years.

[Wildacres Retreat](#)

See you there!!!

Education Committee

The education committee has been really active. They've had telephone conference calls and even have one scheduled in December. Mike Gilmore, chairman, has a committee of 7 that are addressing a number of issues. Realizing that education is a key component of MHA, Mike and John McDougall are working on the curriculum and occupational analysis. Others are working on educational video productions and a log book for those certified and becoming certified. Watch future newsletters for education committee actions or better yet, go to the following link and read all the correspondence from the committee yourself.

[Education Committee Documents](#)

As a member, you should always feel free to contact a committee member and ask questions or voice your opinion.

Marketing Committee

The marketing committee under the chair of Marge Padgitt has made great strides. In addition to the directory, which is available on the MHA website for both members and the public, trades shows, and other marketing ventures are being explored. There has been a

number of publications that have featured Masonry Heaters and MHA wants to be pro-active in many more. Just like the Education Committee, the marketing committee has had conference calls to do business. And like the Education Committee, the marketing committee has come up with a budget for 2009. It's exciting to see committees that are functional and working for the good of all MHA members.

2009 Heater Contest

Get your photos ready for the second annual MHA masonry heater design/build contest and bake oven design/build contest 2009! Awards will be given to a heater mason or company who designed and built the most aesthetically pleasing masonry heater between March 1, 2007 and March 1, 2009 or bake oven built between March 1, 2005 and March 1, 2009. Companies may enter up to three times in both categories. This is the second year for the masonry heater awards and the first year for the bake oven awards. Three places will be awarded in each category. Please download entry forms from the website or contact the Executive Director and have them sent to you.




The entry forms are available below and on the MHA Website. Open it up, print it out, and enter the contest.

Here is the Masonry Heater Design and the Bake Oven Contest Entry Forms: [Heater Design Entry Form](#)



MHA Membership Demographics

Ever wonder where the 134 MHA members come from? Well here's a breakdown of the top 8 locations.

New York has	11	
Washington has	8	
Vermont has	7	
Ontario has	6	
Virginia has	6	
New Jersey has	5	
Maine has	4	
Minnesota has	4	

These figures represent both Full Voting members and Associate members.

Remember, space is limited at the annual meeting at Wildacres, NC, April 10-16th. Get your reservations in early. It's a first come first serve, don't loose out.

Also remember the 2009 Heater Contest. We had great entries last year and certainly expect the same this year.

Go the the MHA website often. Member's make sure to go to the members only lounge. We are constantly adding new and interesting

items.

Above all, "love what you do, and do what you love"

Richard Smith - Executive Director
Masonry Heater Association of North America

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