

## NORTHWEST OHIO STRUCTURAL MASONRY COALITION UPDATE

### JANUARY-JULY 2023

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The Northwest Ohio Structural Masonry Coalition (NWOSMC) is an alliance of masonry organizations working together to encourage the use of structural masonry by providing resources and design support to the engineering community in the Northwest Ohio Region.

The Coalition is founded on the belief that one system - masonry - provides the engineer tremendous design flexibility, that structural masonry is a key component to sustainable design, and that the economy of materials realized using structural masonry results in significant cost savings.

**GOAL:** The Coalition seeks to be a resource to the engineering community by providing design assistance, technical service, and in some cases, project-specific consultation and hands-on training in masonry engineering software. Our collective goal is to help engineers and architects design buildings that are innovative and meet current code requirements and design objectives while taking full advantage of the efficiencies of structural masonry.

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#### TRAINING & EDUCATION PROGRAMS

##### HANDS-ON DAYS FOR THE AEC COMMUNITY

The NWOSMC in partnership with the Toledo AIA, held a hands-on training program in May for architects, engineers, and construction managers at Tri-County Block & Brick. During the event, designers had the opportunity to tour the Tri-County plant to see how CMU materials are produced including the new 32" long units. The attendees had the opportunity to work with brick and block under the guidance of BAC Local #23 craftworkers and contractors that were in attendance.

Construction Robotics participated in the event also. They demonstrated their Material Unit Lift Enhancer (MULE), a device that is designed as an aid for



craftworkers when installing oversized and heavier units.



### **UNIVERSITY WORKSHOPS:**

Early in the year, we were at the University of Toledo to work with engineering students that provided the young engineers with the chance to see first-hand the value of structural masonry,



### **CMU CHECK-OFF UPDATE:**

The NWOSMC was present in Chicago at the first meeting of the Region 3 CMU Check-off board meeting. The NWOSMC has representatives on the Region 3 Workforce Development and Educating Design Professionals task groups.

### **FIRM VISITS:**

Scott Walkowicz, PE, NCEES, visited the offices of JDI Group in Maumee OH. Scott presented to the firm on economical structural masonry designs, and the NWOSMC provided JDI with a software license for the new EleMasonry software. The software helps streamline efficient structural masonry designs.

For information on becoming a member or if you would like more information on the coalition contact: Tom Elliott at [telliott@imiweb.org](mailto:telliott@imiweb.org)

