

Convention Highlights



Highlights and Events

2007 Convention Highlights

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The Tile Contractors' Association of American (TCAA) held its 99th convention November 3 – 6 at the Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas.

The very popular Learning Exchange, a program of multiple AIA CEU credit sessions conducted by TCAA Supplier Members returned this year. Patti Fason of Professional Attention to Tile Installations was the keynote speaker for the Learning Exchange, followed by sessions conducted by Aqua Mix, Amorim-AcoustCork Products, Custom Building Products, Laticrete International, Noble Company and TEC Specialty Construction Brands. In addition to the TCAA membership, the Learning Exchange program was attended by over twenty architects representing several prestigious local firms.



Patti Fason

TCAA is committed to showcasing to architects the benefits of craftsmanship and professional installations offered by its members through its Trowel of Excellence certification program. Since its inception in 2006, eight companies have been certified in the Trowel of Excellence program.

Artisan Tile in Brighton, MI. (Jennifer Panning), was recognized as the most recent TCAA tile company to achieve the distinction of being awarded the Trowel of Excellence. Artisan Tile joins seven other TCAA member companies in being certified, all of whom received certification based on being financially sound, adhering to a code of ethics, demonstrated safety and learning programs, and a body of work showing their professionalism and expertise in installation projects. In addition to Artisan Tile of MI, Artisan Tile and Marble of NJ, Eugene G. Sackett Co of NY, Lippert Tile Co of WI, Port Morris Tile & Marble of NY, Selectile of CA, Shores Tile Co of MI and Williams Tile & Marble in MO are TCAA Trowel of Excellence members.

This year's convention was not just about work! Convention guests had great fun, especially enjoying a tour of Hoover Dam, sponsored by Laticrete International. Sunday night, guests attended an Opening Banquet sponsored by IMI and IUBAC. And Daltile Corp. closed the convention with a dinner at Madame Tussauds where all enjoyed outstanding cuisine and fun. Many laughs were had with various members who posed for pictures with the wax figures.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Holiday Greetings,

It seems like November just flew past, and Christmas and the holidays are upon us. We are looking forward to the arrival of my two oldest children who will be coming home to join us for the holidays. They live at opposite ends of the country, Melissa resides in Los Angeles and Anthony calls Savannah home, so this is a special treat for us.

This past November, TCAA held its 99th Annual Convention in Las Vegas. It was great getting reacquainted with our old friends and I thoroughly enjoyed spending time with and developing new relationships with our new members. If you were unable to attend, we missed you.

I would like to remind everyone that the Trowel of Excellence Certification program continues and I would like to challenge our contractor members to make Trowel of Excellence Certification a priority in the coming year. As an association bringing value to its members, the Trowel of Excellence will enhance Union Tile contractors in their ability in the future to capture and recapture ceramic tile work in their markets. For further information on our Trowel of Excellence, please visit our website at: www.tcaa.org

As this year draws to an end, so does my final term as TCAA President. It has been a tremendous pleasure serving with my fellow board members and I look forward to serving as Past President for the next two years with incoming President, Jerry Leva and his board. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest member to the TCAA Board, Pat Barrett of Port Morris. And say a personal thank you to Past President, Vinny DeLazzero, who will be leaving the board after twelve years of service. Vinny was and will continue to be an inspiration to our association for many years to come.

I wish you a Happy New Year and all the best for 2008.

Best regards,
Michael Maiuri
TCAA President

2007 TCAA President



Michael Maiuri

TCAA Elects Directors

At its annual membership meeting, TCAA contractors elected the following officers, director and trustee for terms beginning January 1, 2008:

Ron Schwartz

(Selectile of California)

to serve a two-year term as Treasurer

John Trendell

(Marble Restoration dba DFS Flooring)

to serve a two-year term as President-Elect

Pat Barrett

(Port Morris Tile & Marble)

to serve a two-year term as Director

Jennifer Panning

(Artisan Tile Inc.)

re-elected to a second two-year term as Director

In accordance with TCAA's bylaws,

Jerry Leva, Sr.

(E.G. Sackett) automatically ascends to the office of President for a two-year term.

Mike Maiuri

(Shores Tile) automatically moves to the office of Past President.

Contractor members in attendance also elected

Emily Williams

(Williams Tile & Marble) to a five-year term as Trustee.



Front row from left: Board Members, John Trendell, Pat Barrett, Ron Schwartz, Jennifer Panning and Trustee, Emily Williams. Back row from left: Jerry Leva and Mike Maiuri.

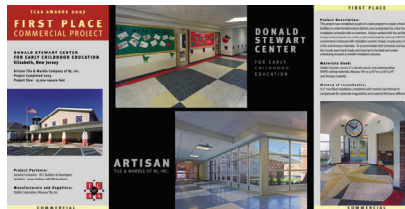
Convention Recognitions

2007 PROJECT OF THE YEAR WINNERS

TCAA recognized the following companies for outstanding achievement in ceramic tile installations. Entries were judged by an independent panel of experts on the basis of technical and artistic merit. Awards were presented in two categories as follows:

1ST PLACE COMMERCIAL PROJECT:

Artisan Tile & Marble of NJ, Inc. for the Donald Stewart Early Childhood Education Center.



2ND PLACE COMMERCIAL PROJECT:

Lippert Tile Company for Cheesecake Factory



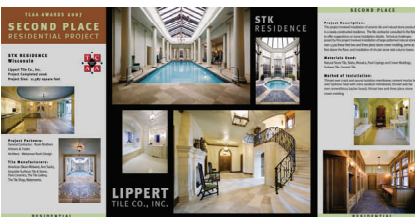
1ST PLACE RESIDENTIAL PROJECT:

DFS Flooring (formerly Marble Restoration, Inc.) for Villa Montelabre



2ND PLACE RESIDENTIAL PROJECT:

Lippert Tile Company for STK Residence



TECHNICAL MERIT:

E.G. Sackett Co., Inc. for Eastside YMCA



Carl V. Cesery Award

Raymond Byrne, Vice President of Grazzini Brothers & Company in Eagan, MN, was presented the **Carl V. Cesery Award** at a luncheon on Nov. 5 at which over a dozen family members and Grazzini Bros. representatives were in attendance. The award recognizes individuals who have served the American tile trade with great distinction. Mr. Byrne joined the company in 1959 and has served as Vice President for more than 20 years. He is a past President of TCAA and currently serves as a Trustee. According to Grazzini Bros. CEO, Gene Grazzini, Jr., "We have worked through thick and thin, and Ray has always been there to help, above the call of duty."



Ray Byrne and wife Virginia

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- Tile of Spain
- Williams Tile & Marble, Inc.

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Industry News

NEWS FROM BAC AND IMI

Contractor College for TCAA

One way that TCAA members distinguish themselves as quality contractors is the Trowel of Excellence. Another strategic tool is IMI's Contractor College.

The program, says TCAA President Michael Maiuri, "is important for keeping up with our industry." Along with the latest trends, "best practices," and technical topics, the curriculum helps contractors of all sizes develop business tools for growth.

It starts with core modules on Project Management, Financial Management, Human Resources, and Business Strategy/Marketing. Then, IMI continuously refines and expands the course offerings to keep current and to reach different audiences.

One of the latest offerings is Building Information Modeling (BIM), which is driving the construction industry towards a model-based process where buildings will be built virtually first. Other recent additions include Life Cycle Cost exercises and software, and engineering applications and terminology.

IMI marketing expertise and interaction with architects and engineers inspired the "Lessons Learned in the Field" course, in response to designers' interest in better communication with contractors on such issues as details, problem-solving, jobsite coordination and delivery.

For TCAA members, IMI conducts a special session at their annual convention. In 2007, that included a presentation on substrate recommendations for installing ceramic and marble tiles. The course covered standards from ANSI (American National Standards Institute) and ACI (American Concrete Institute), as well as Tile Council of North America methods. IMI has also held courses on tile, marble and terrazzo during other Contractor College sessions.

To ensure that every member of a contractor's team share the vision of quality, IMI also offers a similar curriculum for current and potential supervisory personnel through its Supervisor Certification Program (SCP).

For more information on Contractor College, call 1-800-IMI-0988.

New Rule From the Department of Labor

In November, OSHA issued a new rule requiring employers to pay for mandatory personal protective equipment -- even if an employer's existing collective bargaining agreement provides otherwise. Here is the OSHA summary of the new rule:

SUMMARY: Many Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) health, safety, maritime, and construction standards require employers to provide their employees with protective equipment, including personal protective equipment (PPE), when such equipment is necessary to protect employees from job-related injuries, illnesses, and fatalities. These requirements address PPE of many kinds: hard hats, gloves, goggles, safety shoes, safety glasses, welding helmets and goggles, faceshields, chemical protective equipment, fall protection equipment, and so forth. The provisions in OSHA standards that require PPE generally state that the employer is to provide such PPE. However, some of these provisions do not specify that the employer is to provide such PPE at no cost to the employee. In this rulemaking, OSHA is requiring employers to pay for the PPE provided, with exceptions for specific items. The rule does not require employers to provide PPE where none has been required before. Instead, the rule merely stipulates that the employer must pay for required PPE, except in the limited cases specified in the standard.

If you wish to read the new rule in its entirety, a link to the new rule on the US Department of Labor (OSHA) website is listed below.

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=20094

Committee UPDATES

Scholarship Committee Report

*Submitted by Jennifer Panning
Artisan Tile Inc.*

The best bet in Las Vegas was on students!

Three well deserving scholars were awarded a total of \$6,000 in scholarships in 2007. Two of those attended our convention and were recognized for their achievements:

- Bridgette Richardson from the University of Illinois at Champaign and Joshua Dennenberg from The Harvard School of Design
- The TCAA Family Scholarship went to Brian A. Castro, DTI of Illinois, who is attending Michigan State University.

Guests attending convention contributed \$1,640 to the scholarship fund during the 50/50 raffle. Doris and John Sekora, who won the raffle, generously donated their winnings back to the scholarship fund.

In January 08 scholarship application and news will be posted on the website: www.tcaainc.org

Thank you to the following organizations for their support in 2007
Detroit Ceramic Tile Contractors Association
New York / New Jersey Promotion Fund
Milwaukee Tile Contractors Association

Please consider donating to the Scholarship Fund this year! Your past generous support has resulted in 17 scholarships to date.

Tax-deductible contributions can be made by sending checks to:

Tile Contractors Association of America

4 East 113th Terrace
Kansas City, MO 64114
Phone: (800) 655-8453
Fax: (816) 767-0194

Make checks payable to: **Truman Heartland Foundation**

Best Wishes for health and prosperity in 2008.

New Members

Please welcome the following new supplier members to TCAA:

Mer Krete Systems

Jim Whitfield Technical Manager
501 South Van Ness Ave.
Torrance, CA 90501
Phone: (719) 339-1052
Fax: (719) 392-6346
E-mail:
jim.whitfield@parexlahabra.com

Star Quartz Industries, Inc.

Scott Rueter
Jorge Goytisoló
1300 Russell St.
Baltimore, MD 21230
Phone: (513) 218-4778
Fax: (410) 783-2604
E-mail: s.rueter@starquartz.com
j.goytisoló@starquartz.com

TEC Specialty Construction Brands

Tom Plaskota
Greg Schad
315 South Hicks Road
Palatine, IL 60007
Phone: (847) 776-4375
Fax: (847) 776-4353
E-mail: Tom.Plaskota@hbfuller.com
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Website: www.tcaainc.org*



The TCAA Board of Directors and Staff would like to thank the TCAA members for their support in the 2007 and extend best wishes to all for a Happy Holiday and a prosperous New Year.