Louisville, Kentucky is known as the city where the horses race, aka the Kentucky Derby. Louisville, KY may be where the horses race, but the Indiana Kentucky Structural Masonry Coalition (IKSMC) and the International Masonry Institute (IMI) brought in the brightest minds in the masonry industry to educate the design community about structural masonry. On July 24, 2018, IKSMC and IMI presented Louisville Masonry Day at the IMI Louisville training center, located on 960 South 3rd Street, Louisville, KY. Working in conjunction with the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (IUBAC) Local 4 IN/KY, the BAC now has a superior advantage of having designers, architects, and engineers use the training facility to have building elements built to test constructability. Whether it’s a cantilever or post tension, this is the test area to move forward within the heart of Louisville. This event was moderated by the IKSMC engineering outreach coordinator/director and IMI director, David Collins, CSI, who has done several programs for local architectural and engineering firms throughout Louisville and Indiana. Dave was the moderator and host for Louisville Masonry Day.

The program was led off by Dr. W. Mark McGinley who presented Masonry Codes and Standards Updates. Dr. W. Mark McGinley, Ph.D., PE, FASTM, FTMS, is a professor and Endowed Chair for Infrastructure Research at the J.B. Speed School of Engineering University of Louisville for Civil and Environmental Engineering. Dr. McGinley is a recognized
expert in masonry building systems, in particular, masonry building envelopes. Dr. McGinley is actively involved in The Masonry Society (TMS) and the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). Masonry Codes and Standards covered the development process of the Masonry Joint Standards Committee (MSJC), the relationship between the International Building Code (IBC) and MSJC. Dr. McGinley’s topic also reviewed changes incorporated into the 2011, 2013, and 2016 of the TMS 402 and discussed the impact of these changes in masonry design and construction.

Following Masonry Codes & Standards Updates was Structural Masonry Options & Benefits, presented by Scott W. Walkowicz, PE, NCEES. Scott Walkowicz heads his own consulting firm, Walkowicz Consulting Engineers in Lansing, Michigan. Scott Walkowicz also consults with other engineers as well as architects, contractors and owners on behalf of the IKSMC and multiple other structural masonry coalitions around the country. In addition, Scott Walkowicz has served on the TMS and MSJC committees as well. Structural Masonry Options & Benefits covered applications of masonry structures, masonry life cycle costs and benefits, schedule advantages, how masonry is beneficial to owners and contractors, and how the advantages of using Indiana and Kentucky masonry contractors.

With two presentations done, it was time for lunch. HoneyBaked Ham catered boxed lunches for this program. During lunch, designers also took the time to visit our sponsors’ table. MG Stone and AC Krebs were the sponsors for Masonry Day and brought their materials for the designers to view and ask about their products and services. Provided by the IKSMC, 2013 MSJC Codebooks were given out as prizes as well as Code Masters. These prizes were given out for each designer who asked a pertinent question regarding masonry.

Following lunch was Tips for Optimizing Structural Masonry, presented by Diane Throop. Diane B. Throop, P.E., FASTM, FTMS, is head of her own
consulting firm specializing in technical and marketing services for the masonry industry. Diane Troop has also served as chair of the MSJC and ASTM committees. With Diane’s Tips presentation, she discussed the interrelationship between masonry materials, architecture, engineering, and construction. Designers and engineers also learned about making decisions for efficient and economical structures and discovered non-traditional masonry materials and systems. Lastly, the presentation covered code, specification, and standards provisions.

Following Diane’s presentation was an interactive masonry panel discussion. This was an opportunity for designers and engineers to ask pertinent questions regarding masonry. David Collins was the moderator for the panel as well. Several questions were asked, such as the importance of pre-stressed masonry, using lightweight block, and using the facility to test constructability.

Last, but not least, to demonstrate the capabilities of the IMI Louisville Training Center, BAC Local 4 IN/KY Field Representative, Dustin Reinstedler, IMTEF Instructors, Tim Jenkins and Luke Jecker, showed designers and engineers a hands-on segment of a pinwheel and slump test with the help of the apprentices.

Once again, Masonry Day was a huge success for IMI and IKSMC. Many attendees left their business cards asking for more information and to be informed of future events. Several suppliers offered to supply the training center with a multitude of materials. Designers also plan on using the training center for constructability samples, requested future engineer visits, and future Lunch & Learns at their firms.

As the Louisville market continues to grow, so will IMI and IKSMC efforts to grow and support the masonry industry in Louisville.