

# IRMCA NEWS

Volume 26, Number 1

March 2007



Ken Highlander (left) presents the traditional gavel to outgoing president Dennis Probst.

success seminar and are anticipating our first pervious concrete technician courses will have been held by the time you receive this newsletter. We are getting more active on political issues and are looking forward to our "in-house" 2007 directory.

I would like to thank all of the board members for their guidance and advice throughout my term. I would like to thank outgoing board member Jon Vrabel for his service to the board and welcome new member Kyle Cain of Princeton Redi-Mix. Congratulations to Ken Highlander of Ready Mix Service on his election as president. With Bruce and Ken working together the Association is in good hands. Thanks also to the Great Lakes Cement Promotion Association for their support morally and financially. Finally thanks to all of the members for your continued support and participation in IRMCA events. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve this Association as president.

--Dennis Probst

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Greetings. For those of you who did not attend the winter meeting I want to introduce myself. I am Ken Highlander, your president for 2007. Please don't be nervous about this; Bruce and the rest of the staff are still in control. I am sure they will continue to do an excellent job. Hopefully, I will be able to assist them and the board of directors as we continue to fine tune the Association. I am excited to be your president for 2007, and encourage you to contact me with any suggestions or recommendations that would improve our Association. I hope you have a happy and prosperous year.

--Ken Highlander

Illinois Ready  
Mixed Concrete  
Association

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President

Cheryl Moeller,  
Vice President

Dennis Probst,  
Past President

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Tom Beck  
Kyle Cain  
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Tim Huiner  
George Mobarak  
Dennis Oedewaldt  
Justin Ozinga

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Executive Director

Jennifer Bedell,  
IRMCA News Editor/  
Special Projects  
Coordinator

John Reed,  
Director of Marketing &  
Promotion

JoAnn McKeown,  
Office Manager

Erica Scherbring,  
Administrative Assistant

Dick Plimpton, P.E.,  
Consultant

*Working together to  
create value,  
teach excellence,  
and produce quality.*



# Association

# News

## *Our condolences to the family and friends of...*

...former IRMCA Executive Director Richard "Dick" Cosgrove. Dick was executive director of IRMCA from 1989 until the mid 90's.

...IRMCA member Gerald "Jerry" Hodel, president of Roanoke Concrete Products. Jerry played a major role in the organization of the Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association and served as its third president in 1983.

...Frank Campanaro, district sales manager for St. Mary's Cement.

...Phyllis Reed, mother of IRMCA Director of Promotion John Reed.

## *Our congratulations to...*

...Dan Stevens of Sika Corporation who has been promoted to the position of District Manager for its Construction Products Division - Admixtures.



...Justin and Annie Ozinga of Ozinga Illinois who welcomed their third daughter, Sydney.

...IRMCA Special Project Coordinator Jennifer Bedell and her husband Dan who welcomed their second daughter, Lilian.

Pictured left is Lilian Bedell.

### **A ssociate**

Inland Detroit Diesel  
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Butler, WI 53007  
Ph.262.790.2878  
Fx.262.783.8981  
jthorpe@inlanddda.com  
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engines, automatic transmissions,  
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### **Welcome, New Members**

#### **A ffiliate**

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Mike Parr  
3207 Mather Rd  
Springfield, IL 62711  
Ph. 217-793-6655  
Fx. 217-793-6706  
mikep@diamondbros.com

## IRMCA Contracts with Randolph

The Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association has contracted with Jim Randolph of PBI Trucking to become a registered part-time lobbyist on behalf of the Association. Most of you realize that Jim has for many years been extremely active on the legislative front and has been IRMCA's liaison in Springfield during that time. Jim has developed trusting relationships with several congressmen who are friends of our industry and is often invited to testify on issues affecting the concrete business.

As a lobbyist for IRMCA, Jim will continue to coordinate his efforts with others in our industry with whom we share similar goals, such as the Illinois Chapter of the ACPA and their lobbyists, the Midwest Truckers Association, the Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers and others. At the suggestion of many, IRMCA's Executive Director, Bruce Grohne will also become a registered lobbyist, adding manpower when needed.

IRMCA will continue to bring its members legislative updates on a timely basis. We will continue to ask our members to contact legislators and encourage them to support our position on crucial issues. Even with an active part-time lobbyist like Jim, successful legislative activism relies on involvement of the entire Association. Watch your e-mails and faxes for updates! Meanwhile, read Jim's report on page 4.

## Board Member Changes

Board elections were held at the Annual Convention in January. Congratulations to Kyle Cain of Princeton Ready Mix who was elected to his first term and to Tim Huiner of Batavia Concrete and Dennis Oedewaldt of Prairie Materials who were reelected. And many thanks to outgoing board member Jon Vrabel who concluded his service on the board.

**Call the IRMCA office at  
1-800-235-4055  
to discuss your interest in  
serving on a committee or the board of directors.**



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## Plan To Attend These Upcoming Events

September 5, 2007  
Golf Outing  
Pine Lakes Golf Club  
Washington, IL

January 7-8, 2008  
Short Course  
Par\*A\*Dice Hotel  
East Peoria, IL

February 25-28, 2008  
Annual Convention  
Naples Beach/Golf Resort  
Naples, FL

Illinois Ready Mixed  
Concrete Association  
303 Landmark Dr.,  
Ste. 1-A  
Normal, IL 61761

Phone: 309-862-2144  
800-235-4055  
Fax: 309-862-3404  
E-mail: [irmca@irmca.org](mailto:irmca@irmca.org)  
Web: [www.irmca.org](http://www.irmca.org)

### Mission

To be the voice for the ready mixed concrete industry in Illinois. To promote the use of quality ready mixed concrete through innovative educational programs. To accomplish common goals as an organization that cannot be done individually.

LEGISLATIVE

# ACTION ALERT

By Jim Randolph, Legislative Committee Chair

*There is enormous activity at the State Capitol with the 95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Now is the time to get your letters, faxes, emails, calls or visits to your legislators. Things are moving fast and it's starting to look like there is much that will affect our businesses. On pages 4 and 5 is a list of bills introduced this session. You can go to [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov), type the bill number, (such as HB 1105) in the search box on the home page and you can read the bill and check on its status, as well as identify the sponsors. Please review the list, and contact your legislators ASAP with your position on the bills.*

## Gross Sale Receipts Tax - *OPPOSE*

The governor is attempting to introduce this new tax thru the proposed budget. You by now have heard a lot about it. Under the plan manufacturers, retailers and wholesalers will pay 0.5% on their gross receipts and 1.8% will be paid on services. There will be an exemption for those businesses that do less than \$1 million in gross receipts, but they will likely see increased costs from the products they purchase.

This is how it affects the ready mix industry: Incoming materials (pits, quarries, and other ingredients) will pay the 0.5% Gross Sales Receipt Tax (GSRT) on each of the materials we buy and of course pass it on to us. Add 0.5%. If we haul our own materials the GSRT will not apply, but if you have a hauler bring in your materials the GSRT for service (hauling) of 1.8% will apply. Add another 1.8%. When we manufacture the concrete and ticket it for delivery we add on the GSRT again. Add another 0.5%. Combined this easily adds \$1 to \$2 per cubic yard. You can see the pyramid effect this causes. Bordering states will not be required to assess the GSRT so the bordering Ready Mix Producers will have an advantage over Illinois-based producers.

There is debate whether this will generate \$9-billion or more, which the Governor plans to use to fund Universal Healthcare among other things. This would be the largest tax hike in Illinois history! **Call or write your legislators now to *OPPOSE the Gross Receipts Tax.***

## HB 1105 - *OPPOSE*

This is a bill that would grossly expand the prevailing wage act to aggregate haulers. This bill could also force manufacturers to meet prevailing wage requirements if the products they manufacture could end up on a public works project. This means the people at your plant!

## SB 268 - *OPPOSE*

This is a bill introduced to increase truck registration fees. It would place a 10% surcharge on registering a truck in Illinois and a 2.5% surcharge on the sale or lease of any 2006 model or earlier truck sold in Illinois, and a 1% surcharge on the sale or lease of an off road vehicle such as our loaders. These proceeds would fund the Illinois Diesel Emissions Reduction Act.

## **SB 1291**

If you support more funding to the Motor Fuel Tax Fund and think these funds will not be raided for other interests and that you may benefit from this additional funding, you may want to support SB 1291. However, there are other things in this bill you may choose to oppose. SB 1291 would provide uniform 80,000-pound access in exchange for a \$0.06 per gallon motor fuel tax increase. In addition, law enforcement would be given the authority to enter weigh facilities (i.e. elevators, quarries?), inspect scale tickets, and write overweight tickets retroactively for up to two weeks if a load had been brought in overweight. The 80,000- pound access is good, more money in the Motor Fuel Fund is good, but will the money be used for roads and bridges, how much will the \$.06/gal tax will you get back in construction, and how many weigh fines will be imposed post delivered? You decide and contact your legislator.

## **HB 224**

Producers in the following counties should be made aware of this bill. Members in Kendall, Boone, DeKalb, and Grundy counties need to look at this bill. They are proposing their own Motor Fuel Tax. The funds *MAY* be used for highway purposes, not *shall* or *must*.

## **HB 3661 - OPPOSE**

It would require all 1993-1998 model trucks over 16,000 GVW registered in Illinois to have a Low NOx rebuild kit installed at the truck owner's expense. Low NOx rebuild kits are estimated to cost between \$300 and \$2,300 per truck. Non-compliance will result in an out-of-service and a \$1,000 fine!

## **HB 1113 & SB 1525 - SUPPORT**

They would fully eliminate the CDF Commercial Distribution Fee which amounts to \$400/truck.

## **SB 540 and HB 1786 - SUPPORT**

Both passed out of committee recently and are on final passage stage in their respective chambers. The bills would eliminate Illinois' split speed limit between cars and trucks on rural interstate highways.

## **HB 918**

This may interest you in terms of getting 80,000-pound access to your plants. It passed out of committee recently. The bill would provide 80,000-pound access across the state.

There are three bills that bear watching in connection with the Illinois EPA. Having attended the IRMCA Environmental Committee Meeting in Bloomington recently, we offered these bills to the committee for review. We are reviewing the full impact that these bills will have on our industry. They are: SB 1422, SB 1242, and HB 1298.

*I don't remember a time when there have been so many bills introduced at one time that affect our industry. It is most important that you contact your legislators about these bills. They either add cost to your operation, or reduce your costs. Your voice to your legislators is the loudest and the most important. We are monitoring these bill, and consulting with other associations of like mind to band together and work the General Assembly in Springfield. Please write your legislators TODAY!*

*To see who your legislators are go to: [www.elections.il.gov/DistrictLocator/SelectSearchType.aspx](http://www.elections.il.gov/DistrictLocator/SelectSearchType.aspx)*

*For the contact information of your legislator, go to: [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov).*

## Concrete Tech Degree

### Full Tuition Scholarships Available

As many of you know, Alpena Community College in Alpena, Michigan, has for many years offered a two-year concrete technology degree. The college is also the home of the World Center for Concrete Technology. Now, because of a recently received \$1.9 million grant, the school is seeking to expand programs and opportunities. The college is attempting to recruit 20 out-of-state students for enrollment in the program and to make it easier the college has decided to provide a limited number of full tuition scholarships to these out-of-state students on a first-come-first-served basis. If any of you know of someone who might have interest in this quality program, contact Don MacMaster, director, at 989-358-7344.

## IRMCA Responds as Interest in Pervious Concrete Soars

### Association Offers Pervious Concrete Contractor Technician Certification Course

A little background: Pervious concrete pavement is a cement-based product whose porous structure permits a free passage of water through the pavement into the soil without compromising the pavement's durability or integrity. Although not a new technology (it was first used in 1852), pervious concrete is receiving renewed interest, partly because of federal clean water legislation. Pervious concrete pavement systems provide a valuable stormwater management tool under the requirements of the EPA Storm Water Phase II Final Rule which provides programs and practices to help control the amount of contaminants in our waterways.

Why the interest? The leaders in sustainability concerns in our country are now demanding that the construction industry immediately begin showing greater stewardship for the environment in which we all work and live. Organizations such as the United States Green Building Council now provide standards for "green building" which includes provisions that make pervious concrete attractive to responsible planners. Cities, universities, hospitals, federal and state governments are demanding "green building" and they know that pervious concrete has become an environmentally advantageous product of choice.

What is IRMCA doing? John Reed, IRMCA's Director of Promotion has given over 25 presentations addressing pervious concrete and has several more lined up. If you, your sales staff or your customers have interest in pervious, feel free to contact John. At the request of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, IRMCA is now NRMCA's sponsoring unit in Illinois with the responsibility of offering the NRMCA Pervious Concrete Contractor Technician Certification course. Times and locations of course offerings will be announced soon.

Below workers place and roll the very stiff pervious mix.



# Transportation Lobby Day 2007

Hundreds of transportation industry supporters gathered on the east steps of the State Capitol at 12:30 on Wednesday, March 14, for a lobby day rally designed to show policymakers how important transportation is to the state economy. Gatherers hoped to convince legislators to create Illinois jobs by properly funding the state's highway and bridge network as well as other aspects of transportation.

After the rally, attendees were encouraged to talk personally with key legislators about the importance of maintaining and improving the state's transportation network. Finishing the day, the Transportation for Illinois Coalition sponsored a Legislative Reception, again offering access to key legislators.

Lending our support to this cause which has been neglected for the last three years, Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association members and friends were prominent among the attendees. The need for a comprehensive transportation funding package and the revenues to support it is past due and without it Illinois will continue to lack needed job growth and economic competitiveness.



Voicing support for a capital spending bill are: (clockwise from top right) Doug Whitley, President of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce; Representative Dan Brady, 88<sup>th</sup> District, Bloomington, IL; Michael Carrigan, President of the Illinois AFL-CIO; hundreds of demonstrators participate in the lobby day rally.

# SOLUTIONS!

By Randell C. Riley, P.E.

own research institute. The result of this effort is the National Concrete Pavement Technology Center (NCPTC or CP Tech Center), which is dedicated to the development of technology and information to improve the quality and expand the use of concrete in assorted paving applications.

Many of you, particularly in the urban areas, have been following the development of pervious pavement technology and techniques, which has been a focus of the NCPTC as well. One of their reports is based on the freeze-thaw characteristics of pervious pavement placed at the Iowa State University campus in Ames, Iowa. Recognizing freeze-thaw durability as a potential obstacle to long-term use of the product in the Midwest, the report details some of the findings and strategies to ensure freeze-thaw durability and enhance the mixture properties. The report can be downloaded at [www.ctre.iastate.edu/reports/mix\\_design\\_pervious.pdf](http://www.ctre.iastate.edu/reports/mix_design_pervious.pdf). It is a good piece to have in your promotion handbag for promoting pervious pavement. And your director of marketing and promotion, John Reed, can provide further information.

There are also a number of other projects that apply to the higher level traffic market. These have to do with noise, friction, dowel bars, etc., but many of these are outside the typical market of streets and local roads pursued by most of the ready mix concrete industry ([www.cptechcenter.org/projects/reports.cfm](http://www.cptechcenter.org/projects/reports.cfm)). However, one of the latest publications released in January 2007 should be of use and in the hands of every ready mix concrete producer in the state. This publication addresses a market all of us wish to move into; the concrete overlay market (see Figure 1).

This unassuming title, *Guide to Concrete Overlay Solutions*, is a first of its kind comprehensive look at all of the various concrete resurfacing and overlay solutions for almost any situation imaginable in the highway, city street and parking lot market. Its 28 pages of text and graphics aide the engineer and designers in understanding the application of different overlay strategies over concrete, asphalt and composite (asphalt over concrete) pavements. The *Guide* provides the essential information to the user to understand when one particular type of overlay might be favored over another.

Understanding how a concrete overlay is built and what the critical parameters are for each of the types of overlays is also essential for their successful use. In the *Guide*, general construction sequences are laid out with emphasis on those items that are more critical. For example, when should a

*Continued on back cover.*

Making concrete the pavement of choice and a critical solution to an owner's problems has always involved reaching for and understanding new and better technology. Though you may not be aware of it, over the last three years the national concrete paving industry has been engaged in forming its

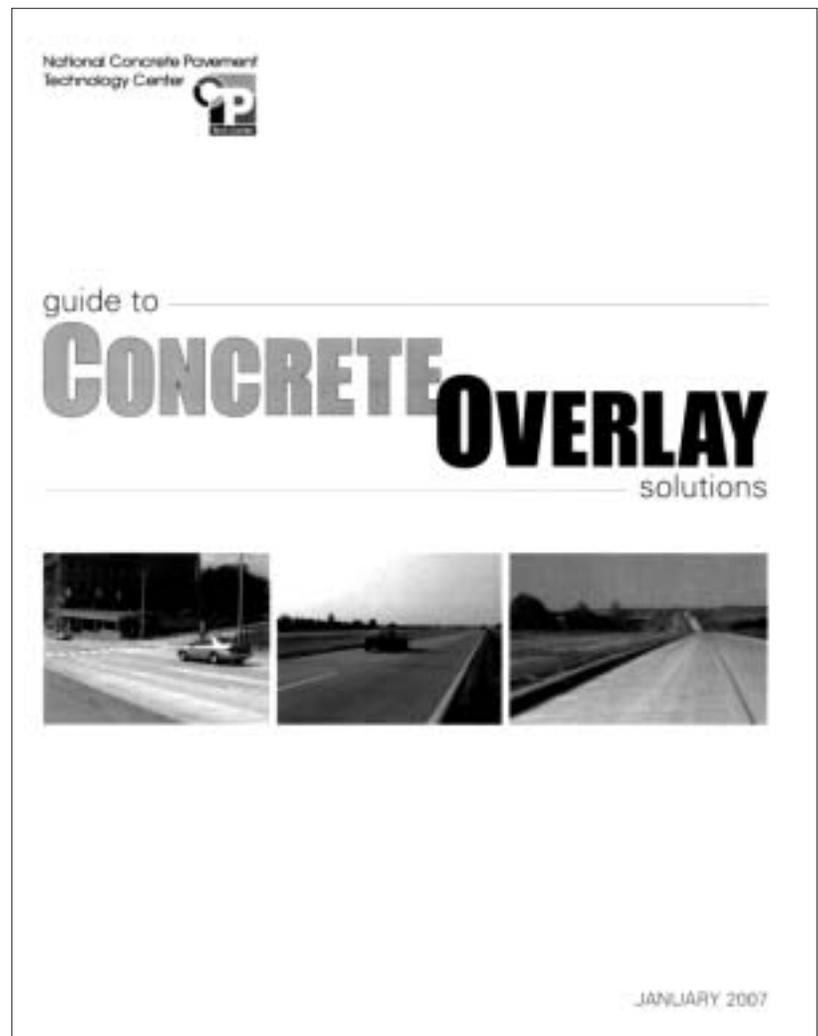


Figure 1: One of the many publications available from the National Concrete Pavement Technology Center (NCPTC/CP Tech Center).

## IRMCA Interacts with IL-EPA

A few members of the IRMCA Environmental Committee met Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup> with representatives of the Permit Section, Bureau of Air, of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The purpose of the meeting was to address changes to AP-42 and how those changes would affect the IEPA Lifetime General Operating Permit under which most of our producer members function.

Applying the changes to AP-42, IEPA has calculated new maximum production numbers that will keep emissions below the 25 ton permit level. Those annual numbers are now 167,000 yards for transit plants and 291,000 yards for central mix plants. Even though lower than before, these new maximum yardage levels will not affect the vast majority of IRMCA members' plants. For those who might annually produce above these levels, the IEPA representatives have promised new tiers to the general permit so that all plants will be covered at one level or another. They are going to solicit our opinion as the new permit is written. We will keep you informed as changes come to us.

**Important:** When calculating your Annual Emission Inventory for 2006 (due 5/1/2007), base your calculations on the factors published in the air permit that your plant currently holds. Direction to do so comes straight from the Unit Manager of the IEPA Permit Section. If you so choose, you may also go online to do your calculations. The website is [www.epa.state.il.us/air/aer/calculate/concrete.html](http://www.epa.state.il.us/air/aer/calculate/concrete.html).



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*The IRMCA staff regrets any omissions from the above list.*

# 2007 Annual Convention

## Indian Wells, California



The Indian Wells Resort in Indian Wells, California, was again the host of the IRMCA Annual Convention, this time January 18 – 20. The weather was a little cool but generally sunny and caused nothing to distract from the hotel’s magnificent views. Use of the swimming pool was negligible, but our golfers didn’t seem to miss a swing – or did they: hmm?

Festivities began with an evening reception on the 18<sup>th</sup> – compliments of our generous Reception Sponsors (right). On the 19<sup>th</sup> we listened with some degree of trepidation as Tina McIntyre, Marketing Manager for Riverside Cement, talked about the health and future of the cement industry in California as well as the history of her company. California seems to again be leading the country in mandating difficult emission controls. IRMCA Executive Director Bruce Grohne followed with updates on several ongoing projects. The last item on the agenda for the 19<sup>th</sup> was the Annual General Meeting at which officers and directors were elected for the 2007-2008 year.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> we heard Bernie Cawley, Executive Director of the Michigan Concrete Association, describe the activities and makeup of his association. MCA does a significant amount of certification training and has added over 60 contractors to their membership and, while many of MCA’s activities differ from IRMCA’s, we learned that many issues are the same everywhere. Bethany Walker, LEED AP, who was then Executive Director of the Rocky Mountain Cement Council (now with the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute) spoke to us about environmental issues in our industry and how concrete can be a “friend of the environment”.

Our convention concluded with a gala reception/dinner that included remarks from retiring President Dennis Probst and the passing of the gavel to new IRMCA President Ken Highlander. After adjournment we were treated to what we didn’t realize was a “goodbye” speech from Dave Anderson, formally with McNeilus Trucks. Many attendees adjourned to participate in the annual IRMCA Texas Hold’em Poker Tournament.



Above: President Dennis Probst presents a plaque to retiring director Jon Vrabel.

Left: Bernie Cawley of the Michigan Concrete Association.

### IRMCA Is Grateful For Its Reception Sponsors

**Gold:** Buzzi Unicem, Continental Cement, ESSROC Cement, Holcim (US), Illinois Cement, Lafarge North America, Lehigh Portland Cement, McNeilus, St. Mary’s Cement, Terex Advance Mixer, W. R. Grace.

**Silver:** Ameren Energy & Fuel, Barnes Industrial, Big River Industries, Brett Admixtures, Command Alkon, Feltes Sand & Gravel, General Resource Technology, Industrial Systems, Master Builders, Hanson Material Service Corporation, Sika New Construction, Southern Illinois Stone, Vulcan Materials.

**Bronze:** Advanced Fiber Solutions, CIT Group.

# 2007 Short Course

Again this year over 150 Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association members gathered in East Peoria to attend the annual Short Course. Attendees gathered for a welcoming function at 5:00 PM on Monday, January 8, that was sponsored by IRMCA members who each year choose to become Reception Sponsors (see list on page 10). Please thank these sponsors when you see them as their generosity allows us to keep our meeting costs as low as possible. During the reception members were able to visit a record number of exhibitor's booths as well as spend time networking with fellow industry associates.

On Tuesday, learning sessions ran from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM with a short lunch break. In the morning, Dr. Ken Hover, P.E. used his unique entertaining style to review his last year's talk on concrete basics and to address the issues of supplementary cementitious materials and reliable exterior flatwork. Following lunch, Jim Baty, Technical Director of the Concrete Tilt-Up Association outlined the growing tilt-up industry and the opportunities for yardage that tilt-up offers. He was followed by Matt Mueller, IDOT's Engineer of Tests who addressed topical IDOT concerns including ASR issues.

Following a break Jon Hanson, National Resource Director for the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, talked about how local, state and national promotion groups can join for promotional efforts. The final speakers talked about biodiesel fuel and about how new emission laws are changing the motors that go into new ready mix trucks.



Above: Presenter Jim Baty, Technical Director for the Tilt-Up Concrete Association.

Above left: Jon Hansen, National Resource Director of NRMCA, greets Jimmie Wheeler of the IL-ACPA.

Left: Attendees of the 2007 Short Course in East Peoria listen to Ken Hover, P.E.

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Submission deadlines for 2007:  
Feb. 2, May 4, August 3, Nov. 2

<sup>1</sup>Commit to a four-issue placement and receive a 10% reduced rate.

*Continued from page 8.*

concrete overlay be bonded to the underlying layers and when should efforts be taken to eliminate or minimize bond? What type of preparation should be used? How do you deal with manholes, existing curb and gutter and elevation transition issues? All of these are questions answered as completely as possible to give the reader an understanding of the basic concepts so that what is learned can be put into practice. Design of concrete overlays is also addressed through pointing the reader to specific tools and techniques to generate the design thickness required.

The *Guide* is a good handout to any engineer, architect or potential owner for understanding how concrete overlays can be put to use for a particular project. Copies of the *Guide* are currently available either through IRMCA (800.235.455) or through the Illinois Chapter, Inc. – American Concrete Pavement Association (217.793.4933). Call and request yours today!

*Randell C. Riley, P.E. is the Executive Director/Engineer for Illinois Chapter - ACPA, and a consultant to Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association. He is actively involved in the day-to-day promotion of long-life quality concrete pavements. He can be reached at 217-793-4933 or on the internet at [pccman@ilacpa.com](mailto:pccman@ilacpa.com).*



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