

IRMCA NEWS

Volume 26, Number 1

March 2007



Presidential Messages

I would like to wish everyone a busy, prosperous and enjoyable year in 2007. I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve IRMCA as president during 2006. Bruce, John, JoAnn, Jennifer, Marissa and everyone else who got involved made my job very easy. ***** Bruce and Jennifer please list programs, outings, accomplishments, etc. for 2006 *****

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

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, bruce and his 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

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Illinois Ready
Mixed Concrete
Association

Officers

Dennis Probst,
President

Ken Highlander,
Vice President

George Mobarak,
Past President

Directors

Jim Amundsen
Tom Beck
Brad Doll
Tim Huiner
Cheryl Moeller
Dennis Oedewaldt
Justin Ozinga
Jon Vrabel

Staff

Bruce Grohne,
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 for 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...

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

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

Pictured left is Lilian Bedell.

Welcome, New Members

A ssociate

Inland Detroit Diesel
Jeff Thorpe
13015 W Custer Ave
Butler, WI 53007
Ph.262.790.2878
Fx.262.783.8981
jthorpe@inlanddda.com

Products & Services:

A ffiliate

Interstate Insurance Brokerage
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 for all 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 which 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 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 encouraging 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 Fax's for updates!

Jim's latest report can be found on page _____.

outgoing/incoming board members

January 4, 2007

Sika Corporation is proud to announce that Dan Stevens has been promoted to the position of District Manager for its Construction Products Division - Admixtures effective January 1, 2007.

Dan holds a B. S. in Business Administration from Roosevelt University in Chicago, IL. Dan had more than 30 years of experience in the concrete industry and has previously served as a member of the Board of Directors of your IRMCA.

Sincerely,

Rich Shadle
Regional Manager
Sika Corporation, New Construction

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
Web: 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.

IRMCA LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

March 12, 2007

There is enormous activity at the State Capitol with the 95th 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. Below is a list of bills introduced this session. You can go to 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 bill.

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.

Here is how it affects the Ready Mix Industry:

Incoming materials: The 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 pyramiding 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 weather 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 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!

OPPOSE HB 1105

SB 268 OPPOSE 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.

Producers in the following counties should be made aware of this bill.

HB 224 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 3361 OPPOSE 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 and SB 1525 SUPPORT would fully eliminate the CDF Commercial Distribution Fee which amounts to \$400/truck.

SB 540 and HB 1786 SUPPORT both passed out of committee this week 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 may interest you in terms of getting 80,000-pound access to your plants. It passed out of committee this week. 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 last week, 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 on these bills. They either add cost to your operations, or reduce your costs. Your voice to your legislators is the loudest and the most important. We are monitoring these bills, and consulting with other associations of like mind to band together and work the General Assembly in Springfield.

“YOU”, please write your legislators TODAY!

To see who your legislators are go to:

<http://www.elections.il.gov/DistrictLocator/SelectSearchType.aspx>

For the Contact information of your legislator, go to:

<http://www.ilga.gov>



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IRMCA Interacts with IL-EPA

A few members of the IRMCA Environmental Committee met Thursday, March 8th 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 member's 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 member's plants. For those who might annually produce above new tiers to the general permit so that all plants will be covered opinion as the new permit is written. We will keep you informed

Important: When calculating your Annual Emission Inventory factors published in the air permit that your plant currently has Manager of the IEPA Permit Section. If you so choose, you <http://www.epa.state.il.us/air/aer/calculate/concrete.html>.



We care about clean air

Interest in Pervious Concrete Soars – IRMCA Responds

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? industry immediately Organizations such includes provision federal and state environmentally a

What is IRMCA doing pervious concrete feel free to contact NRMCA's sponsor Technician Certifi



Which photos?

Transportation Lobby Day 2007

Hundreds of transportation industry supporters gathered on the evening of March 14 for a lobby day rally designed to show policymakers how they can help. Gatherers hoped to convince legislators to create Illinois jobs by improving the state's transportation network as well as other aspects of transportation.

After the rally, attendees were encouraged to talk personally with legislators and improving the state's transportation network. Finishing the day with a Legislative Reception, again offering access to key legislators.

Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association members and friends were instrumental in support to this cause which has been neglected for the last three years. The funding package and the revenues to support it is past due and will hinder growth and economic competitiveness.



2007 Annual Convention

The Indian Wells Resort in Indian Wells California was again Association annual convention; this time January 18 – 20. The weather was perfect and the views were magnificent. The golfers didn't seem to miss a swing – or did they: hmm?

Festivities began with an evening reception on the 18th – (continued on page ____.) On the 19th, we listened with some degree of trepidation as Bruce Grohne, Executive Director of the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute in Ontario, CA talked about the health and future of the industry. California seems to again be leading the country. Bruce Grohne followed with updates on the industry. The 19th was the Annual General Meeting at which officers and directors were elected.

On the 20th we heard Bernie Cawley, Executive Director of the International Ready Mixed Concrete Association (IRMA) talk about the makeup of his association. IRMCA does a significant amount of work for their membership and while many of MCA's activities differ from IRMCA's, they are similar everywhere. Bethany Walker, LEED AP, who was then Executive Director of the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute (and is now with the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute) spoke to us about how a concrete structure can be a "friend of the environment".



...ended the "passing of the gavel" to new IRMCA Executive Director Dennis Probst. After adjournment we were treated to a dinner with McNeilus Trucks. Many attendees participated in a Golf and Dinner Tournament (see picture on page ____).





Following a break Jon Hanson, National Res about how local, state and national promotio biodiesel fuel and about how new emission l

Immediately before adjourning, a drawing w Ready Mix was the lucky winner, although s



Also, a photo of Brad P.

IRMCA Participates in ACI Event

IRMCA's John Reed and Bruce Groh Seminar held February 16th at the ____ officials attended the day long event. mix industry, and related trade associ

Attendees were able to attend several area. Sessions were held throughout sessions were offered on the treatment developments in "whitetopping".



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Concrete Tech Program

As many of you know, Alpena Community College, 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 tuition free 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.



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1/2 page: \$120
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Send ad copy to:
jbedell@irmca.org

For more information call:
800.235.4055

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

¹Commit to a four-issue placement and receive a 10% reduced rate.

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: Big River Industries, Brett Admixtures, Command Alkon, Feltes Sand & Gravel, General Resource Technology, Industrial Systems, Master Builders, Hanson Material Service Corporation, Sika New Construction, Vulcan Materials.

Bronze: Advanced Fiber Solutions, CIT Group.



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

**Please support the Associate Members of the
Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association.**

A. Anderson Building Systems, Advanced Fiber Solutions, Ameren Energy Fuel & Services, Ankem Chemical of Illinois, Arrow Magnolia, Barnes Industrial Group, Big River Industries, Brett Admixtures, Buckeye Building Fibers, Butterfield Color, Buzzi Unicem, CIT Group, CannonBall Express Line, Cemex, Command Alkon, Continental Cement Company, Cummings, McGowan & West, Deslauriers, ESSROC Cement Corporation, Feltes Sand & Gravel Company, Galena Road Gravel, General Resource Technology, Geotest Instrument Corporation, Hanson Material Services, Headwaters Resources, Holcim (US), Humboldt Mfg Company, Illinois Aggregate Equipment, Illinois Cement Company, Industrial Systems, Kore Data Systems, Lafarge North America, Legacy Decorative Concrete Systems, Lehigh Portland Cement Company, Master Builders, McNeilus Companies, Midwest, Mineral Resource Technologies, NPC Bidco, Putzmeister America, St. Mary's Cement, Schwing, Scotwood Industries, SI Concrete Systems, SIKA New Construction, Solomon Colors, Southern Illinois Stone Company, Stuart Tank Sales Corporation, Terex Advance Mixer, Viking Trucks & Equipment Sales, Vulcan Materials Company, W. R. Grace & Company

The IRMCA staff regrets any omissions from the above list.