

IRMCA News

Winter 2012 Vol. 31, No. 4

Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association



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Roller Compacted Concrete

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Golf Outing

Helmets to Hardhats

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Word Scramble

**Cover photo is of Vulcan
Quarry in Joliet.**



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IRMCA NEWS

Volume 31, Number 4 • Winter 2012

Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association



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To be the voice for the ready mixed
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To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.

--Winston Churchill

I want to talk briefly about change, and I don't mean the 65¢ you get back from your \$100 at the grocery store! No, I mean change, as in the process of becoming different. Specifically I want to talk about changes at both the association level and the industry level; changes that have occurred and change that will surely come.

Trade associations have changed dramatically in the 12 years that I have served IRMCA. Companies and individuals who used to join and participate voluntarily and simply to support the association now expect (rightfully) value and return on their investment. Americans are busier than ever as their employers ask for more from less and often do not have the time or resources to be involved in an association. Work now follows individuals home and on vacation, and activities like internet shopping and video games that didn't exist 12 years ago now devour available time reserves.

Associations like IRMCA must recognize the changes. We must be more judicious in asking for members' time. We must adopt only the projects that are most meaningful to our members. We from the Silent Generation (born 1927-1945) and the Baby Boom Generation (born 1946-1964) must adapt to embrace the energies and ideologies of Generation X (born 1965-1979) and the Millennials (born after 1980).

Change in the concrete industry has been equally evident during the past 12 years. We now embrace sustainability as perhaps our number one priority. Local and national industry leaders have recognized that political advocacy has become almost as valuable as market promotion. Consolidation has become a reality that must be faced in all parts of Illinois. Markets, new or once largely ignored, such as concrete overlays (whitetopping), Self-Consolidating Concrete (SCC), Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC), and pervious concrete are now being actively pursued. And, of course, the roller-coaster-like economy changes continue to challenge us all.

What do you think? Decades from now, will folks be describing these times as the "good old days?" I don't know, but change is inevitable and continual. As wise, aged philosopher Taylor Swift says in one of her songs, "This is a new year. A new beginning. And things will change." Be ready, be adaptable and keep yourselves educated.

Happy Holidays and a prosperous 2013 to all!

Bruce

From the Director

Bruce Grohne





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Short Course



January 7 & 8, 2013

PAR*A*DICE Hotel

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The welcome reception will begin at 5 PM on January 7. The meeting sessions will begin at 8:30 AM on January 8.

Speakers include Bob Garbini (NRMCA), Doug Dirks (IDOT), John Melander (Slag Cement Association), Doug Whitley (IL Chamber of Commerce), Mitch Mariotti (Prairie), Brian Borowski (Lafarge), and John Albinger (Technical Consultant).

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.....

Condolences

Condolences to the family
and friends of Betty Grohne
(Stepmother of Bruce
Grohne).

.....

ROSS reminder

All producer members who
are eligible for the ROSS
program are required to
register their plants no later
than the anniversary date of
their current air permit site
fee due date.

.....

IRMCA online event registration

You may now register online
for IRMCA events, including
the upcoming Short Course
and Winter Meeting. Go to
www.irmca.org and scroll
down the calendar of events
to find the registration link.

Board Update

September 4, 2012, Meeting

►The board determined to offer five \$2,000 scholarships in 2012, one each to the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign; the University of Illinois-Chicago, the Illinois Institute of Technology, Bradley University, and Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

►The following amendment to the Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association By-Laws has been unanimously approved by the Board of Directors and will be voted on at the Short Course General Meeting at 8:30 AM on January 8, 2013, at the Par*A*Dice Hotel in East Peoria.

Article V, Board of Directors, Section 2.

The Board of Directors shall consist of up to fourteen

(14) and not less than ten (10) members; a maximum of 9 and minimum of 7 from the Producer Member Class and a maximum of five (5) and minimum of three (3) from the Associate Member Class. The immediate past president shall serve on the Board as a Producer Member for a two (2) year term.

►Government Relations: the 3 axle truck weight allowance bill is on hold. Also, we are watching with concern (with the Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers and others) efforts by the Illinois Department of Revenue to establish tax on the "delivery" of materials (in addition to the tax on the materials themselves).

►Technical: John Albinger talked about member issues that have included him, his participation in a federal taskforce observing bridge construction, IRMCA involvement in District One inquiries concerning supply of fly ash and slag, a meeting with Doug Dirks and Matt Mueller from IDOT, and mentioned IRMCA exhibiting at the Illinois Municipal League meeting in October.

Winter Meeting

March 10-13, 2013

TradeWinds Island Grand
St. Pete Beach, Florida

This event is co-hosted by the Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association and the Wisconsin Ready Mixed Concrete Association. A welcome reception will be held on Sunday, March 10. The conference will begin on Monday, March 11, and will conclude on Wednesday, March 13. For information on St. Pete Beach, go to: www.visitstpeteclearwater.com.

Reservations:

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www.tradewindsresort.com

Room registration for this event is way beyond expectations. Get on board now for what is going to be great fun and learning!

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Golf

Outing 2012

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Top: Jim Posadny, Scott Maberry, Dennis Probst, JoAnn McKeown.
Bottom: Eric Pullium, Rick Duda, Joe Heinz, Randy Browberek.
Left: Ken Kalafut, Tim Huiner, Rob Piestrzynski, Dan Stevens.



2012 Prize Winners

Closest to pin # 3: Dennis Probst

Closest to pin # 17: Dan Drake

Long drive # 4: Dan Drake

Long putt #18: Brian Rice

Snyder closest #5: Dan Edwards

1st low gross: Randy Bromberek with 76

2nd low gross: Rex Haines with 76 (SCPO)

3rd low gross: George Zima with 77

1st low net: Ron Grigg

2nd low gross: Rich Sefried

3rd low gross: Mike Dearing

Inside Circle #5: Dan Edwards, Joe Bryk



Candice VanHook and Ginnie Schimelpfenig represent Snyder Insurance, who sponsored a contest at hole #5.



Matt Morrison



George Zima



Dick Plimpton



Rich Sefried and Rick Seybert (left) and Dan Edwards (above) take the rain in stride.



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H2H

Helmet to Hardhats

Transitioning to the civilian workforce is a challenge that military veterans face. Job searching is a difficult process, and veterans have the added challenge of translating their military skills for civilian employers. Help is available, though, through the Helmets to Hardhats (H2H) program, which connects National Guard Reserve, retired and transitioning active-duty military members with prospective employers in the construction industry.

When did this program begin?

H2H was established in 2003.

How does this program benefit employers?

Employers who qualify for the H2H program gain access to a pool of construction industry career seekers who are hardworking, drug-free, safety-conscience and highly dependable.

What tools are available to help employers?

The H2H web site provides many great tools for employers to help them locate career seekers who have special skills. Do you need someone with underwater welding experience? Would you like to interview a military EMT with frontline field experience who is now considering a civilian career in construction safety and health? H2H candidates possess specialized training, hands-on experience and professional discipline that you simply cannot find in the regular workforce.

How do employers search for job candidates?

All H2H career seekers are required to fill out detailed information before accessing the site, making it easy to eliminate inappropriate candidates based on career specifications and to locate candidates with desired skills. The web site also offers a letter creation tool to easily communicate with qualified applicants and an opt-in email feature that will send resumes that meet your specific criteria directly to your inbox.

Can employers limit the number of applications they receive?

After posting a career, employers can adjust the criteria to increase or decrease the number of applications they are receiving. Employers can choose to just receive resumes, career seeker's screening answers, or a screening score in the subject of the email.

How do you gauge the success of this program?

Because we refer candidates to career providers and refer career providers to candidates - without doing the actual hiring - it is impossible to know of everyone who has been hired. However, we do request placement information from our career providers and receive many calls from veterans thanking us for connecting them to great new careers. Since 2007, we've confirmed the successful placements of almost 6,000 military veterans into quality careers in the building and construction trades via the H2H program.

Where can prospective employers find additional information?

Interested companies are encouraged to register at <http://helmetstohardhats.org>.

Helmet to Hardhats helps military veterans transition to the civilian workforce.





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Roller Compacted Concrete

A new enthusiasm
for an old market

Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) has been around since the early 70's when it was used for "haul roads" in the lumber industry in Canada. Since then RCC has been used significantly in dam construction and on many off-highway heavy vehicle access roads. Now, RCC is being used in railroad container yards, power plants, streets, highway shoulders, and parking lots. RCC is a comparatively low cost, durable paving material designed to carry heavy loads. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has accepted it for aircraft parking aprons, taxiways and other pavements at military installations, and thus stimulated interest among all those concerned with pavement construction.

RCC as used for pavements is a dry Portland cement

concrete material which is consolidated by external vibration using heavy vibratory rollers or similar equipment. It is normally dryer than a no-slump



Collinsville road

consistency and must be stiff enough to support the compaction equipment. RCC for pavement construction is generally placed with an asphalt paver or similar equipment, modified to accommodate the stiff consistency of RCC and the thicker lifts used.

RCC differs from conventional concrete, principally in its consistency requirement. For effective consolidation, the concrete mixture must be dry enough to prevent sinking of the vibratory roller equipment but wet enough to permit adequate distribution of the binder mortar during mixing and vibratory compaction. Other differences might be no air-entrainment - although some admixtures may be used to increase workability and control set time - more fine aggregates and smaller maximum size coarse aggregate. Roller Compacted Concrete is tested for density with a nuclear density gauge and for strength with conventional cylinders.

Using materials and admixtures consistent with conventional concrete, RCC may be manufactured in a central mix batch plant (twin shaft mixers), a dry batch plant that utilizes ready mix trucks to transfer the RCC into a dump truck, a dry batch plant that utilizes a ribbon mixer, a drum mixer, or a continuous flow mixer (pugmill and horizontal shaft mixer).

In the majority of situations, ready mix trucks are not used to deliver RCC because the zero-slump concrete is too dry and cannot be discharged (though some have tried). Instead the RCC is delivered in dump trucks, left in front of an asphalt spreader for placement, and then rolled to the desired depth and density. Consolidation typically must be completed externally within 60 minutes (before the paste begins to harden).

The benefits of RCC are that it is strong and durable (steel is not required unless there is a cold joint); down time is limited (traffic usage quickly); it will support heavy loads and eliminates rutting; and construction can be speedy and efficient. And RCC is cost efficient when compared to asphalt, thus its increased usage.

RCC has the strength and performance of conventional concrete and the economy and simplicity of asphalt. For much more about RCC and its production and use, The Guide for Roller-Compacted Concrete Pavements, published by the National Concrete Pavement Technology Center is a wonderful source that includes mix proportioning and other design procedures. The Portland Cement Association and the American Concrete Pavement Association also have a plethora of great information on RCC.

Joliet Intermodal



"RCC is a comparatively low cost, durable paving material designed to carry heavy loads. It differs from conventional concrete, principally in its consistency."



Joliet Vulcan Quarry



Channahon Illinois Transport



Chicago CSX



Joliet Central State Trucking

IRMCA Associates Meeting



On December 4th several IRMCA associate members gathered at the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington to talk about the state of the association from their perspective. The meeting was facilitated by IRMCA Executive Director Bruce Grohne and IRMCA Technical Consultant John Albinger and was attended by about 20 associate members. Producer members were not in attendance.

The ultimate goal of the meeting was to arrive at specific ideas about how IRMCA can expand and continue to make relevant its assistance to all members, particularly the producers and the associates. We discussed ways of making the IRMCA newsletter available to more persons at a low cost; driver education and training; development of a

problem checklist; observations that associates have regarding producer's product knowledge and testing practices; contractor relationships; and producer and associate promotional activities.

The meeting concluded with a short discussion on how IRMCA can support the associate members, how the associates can help IRMCA with an upcoming producer membership drive, and a discussion about the new IRMCA board configuration which will allow for more associate members.

From the standpoint of IRMCA, the meeting was very enlightening and helpful. The thoughts and reactions are being put together in a readable form and will be e-mailed to all members for their consideration and comment.

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Illinois Municipal League

On October 18th & 19th, Bruce Grohne (IRMCA) John Albinger (IRMCA consultant), and Jimie Wheeler (IL-ACPA) manned an exhibit booth at the 2012 Illinois Municipal League Convention in Chicago. Over 100 mayors, administrators, public work employees, alderpersons, and others stopped by the booth where there was information on conventional concrete, pervious concrete and whitetopping.

Most persons who stopped at the booth were either those directly involved in municipal construction or mayors and alderpersons who wanted to learn more about concrete. It was a worthwhile event in that IRMCA acquired several potential meeting possibilities and was able to pass potential leads to producers. IRMCA has made and will make more promotion presentations to engineer companies that stopped by the booth. It was a successful and worthwhile promotion effort.

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Tell It Like It Is

When change is imminent, resiliency is essential

I know more mature people like myself claim to have witnessed many changes throughout their lives. In the past 5 to 10 years I have witnessed significant changes in our industry. One might immediately think of the many changes brought about by our troubled economy, but I believe technology (e.g., computers) may have played a greater role in our metamorphosis. Certainly technology has made it a little easier to cope with today's challenges, because for better or worse we need fewer people to operate (as is happening in all businesses, in all industries). Our batching systems feed directly into various cost, billing, inventory, mix optimization and operations programs. Plants are remotely operated and drivers receive their delivery instructions via a monitor mounted in the truck. Fuel is dispensed with the use of a credit card and the fuel efficiency of each vehicle is immediately computed. Truck monitoring keeps track of truck locations, travel and dump times, contractor efficiency, mixer revolutions, added water, delivery costs and much more. In today's work environment people feel pressure to produce more work, of higher quality, with fewer people, in less time, and with less money. Ready mix sales and QC people say much of their time is spent completing mandatory reports and think their time would be better spent in the field.

Lots of changes, and for better or worse, that's the way it is.

I read an article that said, "Change is a process that occurs over time and involves themes of loss, uncertainty, and control," especially for older employees. On the other hand younger employees can't relate to the way things used to be; it's just the way it is. There are no sadness, anxiety, or acceptance issues to deal with. What change?

So here we are, those of us who look backwards and those who look forward, each thinking the other doesn't know what's going on. If, in fact, "that's the way it is," somebody has to change or at least adapt. Wanna guess who that somebody is? Not the person looking forward!

An employer has a responsibility to facilitate changes and help all employees understand why changes are being made. Changes forced down a person's throat may not have the affect the "changer" intended. The biggest challenge an employer has is helping their employees cope with the changes. Patience, on the part of the employee as well as the employer, is important. Change should never be absolute. Suggestions and experiences of older employees are worth considering in the implementations of new systems. Ultimately change has to be accepted and we must adapt.

As long as I can remember I've had the saying, "When change is imminent, resiliency is essential," hanging on my office wall. Most dictionaries define resiliency as "an occurrence of rebounding or springing back." Many of us are not inclined or able to spring anywhere, and I'm no exception. But in order to progress, or even survive, I have to be reminded daily that I have to adapt, and I, like many, need help and patience.

So for you seasoned people: be patient, try acquiring new skills, try to understand and try to adapt. As for our younger cohorts, in the past I've been somewhat critical of their work habits (if you've read some of my past articles you know how I feel), but maybe I've been wrong. Can you imagine after all these years changing my mind?

In the same article I referenced above there was another surly, profound, quote. "To achieve resiliency, separate who you are from what you are." Maybe younger people are inherently resilient and those of us who are more mature have a problem with change. Something to think about.



By John Albinger

PS: In my last article I asked you to let me know how you ranked the importance of price, quality, service, and a salesperson. 50% of the responders said quality and 50% said a salesperson. I would like to thank both of you.

word scramble

Can you unscramble these common concrete terms?

Answers are at the bottom of the page.

ecnetcro

remxi

tvapneme

rloyvea

usopvire

lulf ptehd

agismptn

laptn

yeoovncr

ratoivceed

axreitdmu

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Answers: concrete, mixer, pavement, overlay, pervious, full depth, stamping, plant, conveyor, decorative, admixture, aggregate, sand, gravel, cement, chloride, testing, self-consolidating concrete, insulating concrete forms, roller compacted concrete, pour, stain, dust collector, fibers, fly ash, engineer, cleaning equipment, pump, reclaim, slag, tank, water heater, slab, air entrainment, water, reinforced, slump, superplasticizer, flowable fill, sealer

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Upcoming Events

- IRMCA Short Course, January 7 & 8, 2013
- Winter Meeting, March 10-13, 2013

"It is no use saying, 'We are doing our best.' You have got to succeed in doing what is necessary."

-- Anonymous



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