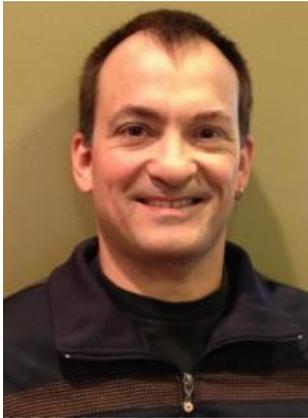




Concrete Illinois, The Newsletter of the Illinois Chapter of the American Concrete Institute

December 2016 Newsletter, Volume 32 Issue 9

President's Memo



Hello friends and fellow ACI members. On behalf of the ACI-Illinois board, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It is hard to believe that another year has come to a close, but here we are in December, facing the end of what I hope was a prosperous and enjoyable year for all of you. The start of winter for me means getting the last of my paperwork wrapped up, planning lab inspections, updating my certifications, and shuffling my kids to an endless string of hockey practices. Making time for our families is a year-round priority, and hopefully you are finding some extra time to spend with your loved ones.

I know this is also a busy time for all to book up their calendars with holiday parties and planning.

Thank you to all who came out to our Toys for Tots event on November 30. That is one of the best get-togethers of the year, and the food is always excellent. A special thanks to Pete Stamatopoulos and Brad Pfanenstiel who always work hard to make sure this event is a success every year.

We had another great turnout (+100 attendees!) to support the 2016 Henry Crown award winner Mr. Steve Gillen. If you are like me, and always looking forward to what work is coming and what new technologies will be employed, you weren't disappointed. Mark your calendars for the next ACI dinner on Wednesday, January 11, when Mr. George Houston will present to the group the annual "IDOT Update".

An important scheduling note: We have changed the time of our board meetings to 3:30 PM for the remainder of the year. Board meetings are held prior to each monthly dinner meeting, and are open to all members. Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 11 at 3:30 PM at the Erie Café. I invite you all to join us.

See you then...

Greg Rohlf
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January Dinner Meeting

We hope you will join us on Wednesday, January 11th at the Erie Café for our January Dinner Meeting. Networking begins at 5:15 pm. Mr. George R. Houston will provide us with the annual IDOT update (his second) to the group.

Mr. Houston is a graduate of the University of Illinois in Champaign with a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and a licensed Professional Engineer in Illinois. He has worked for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for 27 years. During his time at IDOT, he has been a Construction Inspector, Contract Designer, and a Resident Engineer.

His work in the District Bureau of Materials began in 1992 as a Materials Inspector in Cook and Will Counties. He was promoted to Area Mixture Control Supervisor for North Cook County in 1998 and soon after inherited DuPage and Kane Counties as well. In 2014 he was promoted to the District Mixture Control Engineer position.

George currently holds the position of Materials Engineer/Bureau Chief of Materials for IDOT in District One. His responsibilities are to direct and coordinate the District's construction materials inspection program, testing material certification activities, and geotechnical and foundation analysis and investigations.

This is traditionally a very well attended and popular meeting. We hope you'll join us!

To register, click [here](#).

Fundraising Event – Blackhawks vs. Canucks Game

Sunday, January 22, 2017 – 6 pm game. Families and friends are welcome. Limited tickets available for \$125 each.

For a flyer, click [here](#).

Certification

By: George Seegebrecht

ACI-IL Certification sessions for the remainder of 2016 are listed below!

Consider a session that interests you and register soon!

December 13-14th Grade I Field Technician

Certification Sessions are conducted at the new **ACI-IL Certification Facility** centrally located at 650 W. Grand Avenue Unit #106 in Elmhurst, Illinois.

Please go to the ACI-Illinois website at www.aciillinois.com for registration forms and information about classes. If you need help to register just call (847) 635-1390.

November Dinner Meeting Recap

By: Sarah Kilroy, P.E.

At the well-attended November 15th meeting, the special guest of the evening, Mr. Steve Gillen, the Illinois Tollway Deputy Manager of Materials, gave a thorough overview of upcoming construction work on the Illinois Tollway and new and continuing research initiatives the engineering group is working on.

Next year will be somewhat of a slow down on the Tollway with the I-90 Jane Addams Memorial Tollway work wrapping up at the end of 2016, however construction planning is ongoing with upcoming work on slate for the I-294 Central Tri-State. In 2017, the Tollway will be focusing on I-390 and systemwide repairs that include preservation and rehabilitation work. The Mile-Long Bridge will be a part of this preservation work until it is reconstructed and widened in 2020. The Tollway is going to be specifying newly prescribed Tollway specific CA and AX type rapid strength gaining concrete mixtures for the bridge repairs. Similarly to the Tollway's pioneering effort utilizing precast concrete as an accelerated mainline patching method on I-294 in previous years, Gillen and his team have been gathering data and formulating designs for CRC precast patching in 2017. The 10 ft. to 30 ft. long precast CRC patches will be spliced into existing CRC pavement on the south Tri-State in overnight patching applications. The Tollway is also planning to replace existing bridge approach slabs with precast slabs. These precast slabs will be in the ballpark of 30 tons and approximately 20 ft. in length.

In addition to the systemwide preservation efforts, the Tollway will be implementing new material initiatives on the Mary-Nora (MN) ramps from I-88 to I-294 to test out economical and innovative Continuously Reinforced Concrete (CRC) pavement designs as a prelude to the I-294 reconstruction and widening.

With a strong commitment to the customer, it is the Tollway's goal to minimize construction impact on travel. Keeping this in mind, the Tollway is debuting Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) in 2017. The bridge will consist of prefabricated super and sub structure elements including beams and deck panels. The Tollway is giving the Contractor options allowing for fabrication on-site or off-site and choosing which members to prefabricate. The Tollway is specifying ultra- high-performance engineered concrete mixtures for the ABC systems and bridges in general. This is in an effort to control cracking, reduce thickness, and reduce reinforcement. The Tollway is continuing to use epoxy coated steel because stainless steel hasn't proven to be an economical option at this point.

Moving toward 2020, when the Central Tri-State reconstruction and widening will be under way, Tollway Materials is working on improving its TL pavement concrete mixture with internal curing and/or microfibers. With the success of the Performance Related Specification for the mainline concrete pavement program on I-90, the Tollway will modify it for use with the new mainline CRC pavement proposed for the Central Tri-State. The Tollway is also performing research on cement treated base utilizing recycled fine aggregate in lieu of asphalt stabilized subbase. Mr. Gillen mentioned that the recycled fines have a high chloride content which may prove to be an obstacle to overcome.

Lastly, Mr. Gillen spoke about the Tollway's effort to embrace new testing technology including the Super Air Meter (SAM), Magnetic Imaging Tomography (MIT) Scanning, resistivity testing, and the ring test which relates to shrinkage. Tollway Materials is continuously working towards better designs and mixtures to extend the life of repairs and new construction.

Now Accepting Henry Crown Award Nominees

Do you know someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the concrete industry? There are many talented and generous people in the Chicago area who would make good Henry Crown Award candidates. This award, sponsored by Mr. Lester Crown of Henry Crown and Company, is made to someone who has made a significant contribution to the Chicago area concrete community. Consider nominating an individual from one of the many parts of our industry; contractors, engineers, architects, suppliers, all are eligible. The Chapter recognizes the recipient of the Henry Crown Award with an article in Concrete Illinois, a presentation at the Annual Dinner in May, and a \$1,000 contribution to the charity of the recipient's choice.

The nominating process entails getting letters of recommendation from the nominees' peers. Letters should be at least a full page long, giving specific examples of the nominee's work, actions and accomplishments. The Henry Crown Award Nominating Committee is especially interested in how the nominee got into the concrete business, and their history in the industry. The person gathering the letters should write a cover letter, highlighting the nominee's most notable accomplishments. If you wish to nominate someone, or have any questions, please contact Rich Shadle at rshadle@willebrothers.com or call him at 708-215-0555.

Nominations are due by February 28, 2017.

Holiday Social – Toys for Tots Recap

Our Annual Toys for Tots social was held at Athena Restaurant in Greektown on November 30, 2016. In attendance were 62 ACI supporters who enjoyed Greek food, sweets, and Greek wine and beer. We collected 57 Christmas toys for the Chicagoland Toys for Tots which two Marines graciously took back with them for distribution. Supporters also donated cash and that money went directly to the Chicagoland Toys for Tots. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors for their continued support in making this important event a success every year!

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Save The Date – 2017 Annual Dinner

May 6, 2017

Macy's on State Street

More details to follow next year!