

NEWS



ILLINOIS READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION

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

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Chad Groff,
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STAFF

Bill Marcordes,
Executive Director
JoAnn McKeown,
Office Manager

CONSULTANTS

John Albinger,
Technical
Jim Randolph,
Government Activities

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.

High-Tech Apartment Complex at the University of Illinois



10,000 PSI concrete supplied by Blager Concrete Company

A 16-story high rise apartment building in Campustown at the University of Illinois is set to open the fall of 2015. The state of the art LEED facility will feature an automated parking system where cars will be moved by elevators to “parking vaults” on the second, third and fourth floors.

The job calls for high performance, high strength (10,000 psi) concrete – a design

that is not exclusive to large metropolitan areas and nothing new for the Blager Concrete Company. “With our commitment and experience, the contractor looked to us as a qualified supplier,” says David Blager, Vice President of Blager Concrete Company.

For more information on this project or high performance concrete contact IRMCA. ■

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

IRMCA Members and Friends,

As I reflect on 2014 and look forward to 2015, I am reminded that we, in our business, can be confident of one thing, CHANGE! New products will emerge, new markets will open, opportunities will present themselves and yes, an occasional problem will certainly raise its ugly head. What an exciting time to be in the concrete business and what a great time to be a member of the Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association!

2014 was a changing and exciting time for IRMCA. New Executive Director, Bill Marcordes, has brought experience in the industry, high energy, and the technology competency needed to keep the association current in this ever-changing communication world. I am pleased that IRMCA has increased the size of the board of directors, creating the opportunity for more divergence of ideas and opportunity for service. We are all working hard to revitalize and implement our supportive committees that help this association thrive. I feel confident that these positive changes bode well for the future of IRMCA!

IRMCA worked diligently in 2014 to keep members current in areas such as IDOT relationships, legislative issues affecting our businesses, technical matters, evolving and changing products, and much more. IRMCA continues to be a leading advocate for ready mixed concrete in Illinois and a valuable source of vital industry information for its members.

I want to thank my friends who served on the IRMCA board during the last year for their competence and valued counsel. Thanks also to the IRMCA staff, Executive Director Bill Marcordes, Office Manager JoAnn McKeown, Technical Consultant John Albinger, and Governmental Activities Consultant Jim Randolph. Their leadership keeps IRMCA a top-flight association, valuable to its members.

Mostly, I want to thank you, the members of IRMCA for your participation in our many activities and your continual support of the association. It has been a privilege to serve as your president in 2014. I have enjoyed making new friends and hope to make even more as we move into 2015. I am cautiously optimistic for our industry in Illinois in 2015 and, with your help, am certain that IRMCA will continue to be an industry leader. If I can ever be of service to any of you, please just call.

Best wishes for a prosperous 2015,

Scott Mayberry

Scott Mayberry
President, Kienstra-Illinois, LLC



Revitalization of Dixon

When the City of Dixon was faced with the reality of replacing the underground infrastructure, they decided to expand the project to include the downtown roads. By including the roads in the project, the City's goal was to revitalize the downtown area and create a "destination" along the riverfront.

The scope of the project included roads, sidewalks, curb and gutter and various other structures like retaining walls and planters. One of the project highlights included stamped and colored parking stripes throughout the downtown area. According to Jeff Kuhn, the Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvements, the decision to use concrete was easy.

"When it came down to it, the price for concrete was better than asphalt," said Kuhn. "And I know that the concrete is going to last much longer."

George Mobarak, Vice President of Rock River Ready Mix, was happy to be part of the project.

"We take a lot of pride being involved in projects that will benefit our community," said Mobarak.

In total, the project had more than 5,000 cubic yards of concrete. ■

"WE TAKE A LOT OF PRIDE BEING INVOLVED IN PROJECTS THAT WILL BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITY..."





READY MIXED CONCRETE CHECK-OFF INITIATIVE

**Note to reader: This is NOT a National Ready Mixed Concrete Association initiative- it is a national initiative being led by leaders within the ready mixed concrete industry around the country. This article is a summary of the presentation given at the Summer Meeting to help explain the initiative to the IRMCA Membership and keep them informed as to the status of the initiative.*



So what is a check-off program?

Check-off programs, also referred to as research and promotion programs, promote and provide research and information for a particular product without reference to specific producers or brands. The term “check-off” is derived from programs that were not mandatory; producers marked a check-off box if they wished to contribute to the program. Mandatory programs do not have such forms, but the name has remained. Producers usually finance these programs from assessments charged on a per unit basis of the marketed product. Check-off programs are designed to improve the market position of the covered product by expanding markets, increasing demand, and developing new uses and markets.

Does the ready mixed concrete industry really need a check-off program?

For years, the industry has struggled to fund major education, promotion and research efforts through the limited funds available from established trade and promotion associations. Membership in these associations, however, is strictly voluntary which puts limits on the funds available. Through a mandatory program, in which all ready mixed concrete producers are required to contribute, the industry can achieve a coordinated and continuous process of research, education and promotion. Because all producers within the industry contribute to the program equally, check-offs reduce the inequity associated with free-riders that do not contribute equally in voluntary programs. Also, the participation of all producers ensures a broader funding base, lowering the costs for all involved. Check-offs also have lasting power. Once enacted, a check-off can be terminated by the industry that creates it, but only through a referendum. Thus, sustained funding over multiple years enables industries to tackle larger programs that have greater potential for market impact.

Who gets to decide whether or not to implement a check-off program?

The decision to establish a check-off program rests with industry participants voting in a referendum.

Who pays for the check-off?

Each check-off program is supported entirely by its funders. NO TAXPAYER OR GOVERNMENT FUNDS ARE INVOLVED. Contribution rates vary throughout the different check-offs, but they are always based on a percentage of net sales or assessed at a set rate per production unit. Each check-off program participant contributes at the same rate, no matter where his or her operation is located.

How do check-offs benefit producers?

The fundamental goal of every check-off program is to increase product demand, thereby increasing the potential long-term economic growth of all sectors of the industry.

Who directs check-off programs?

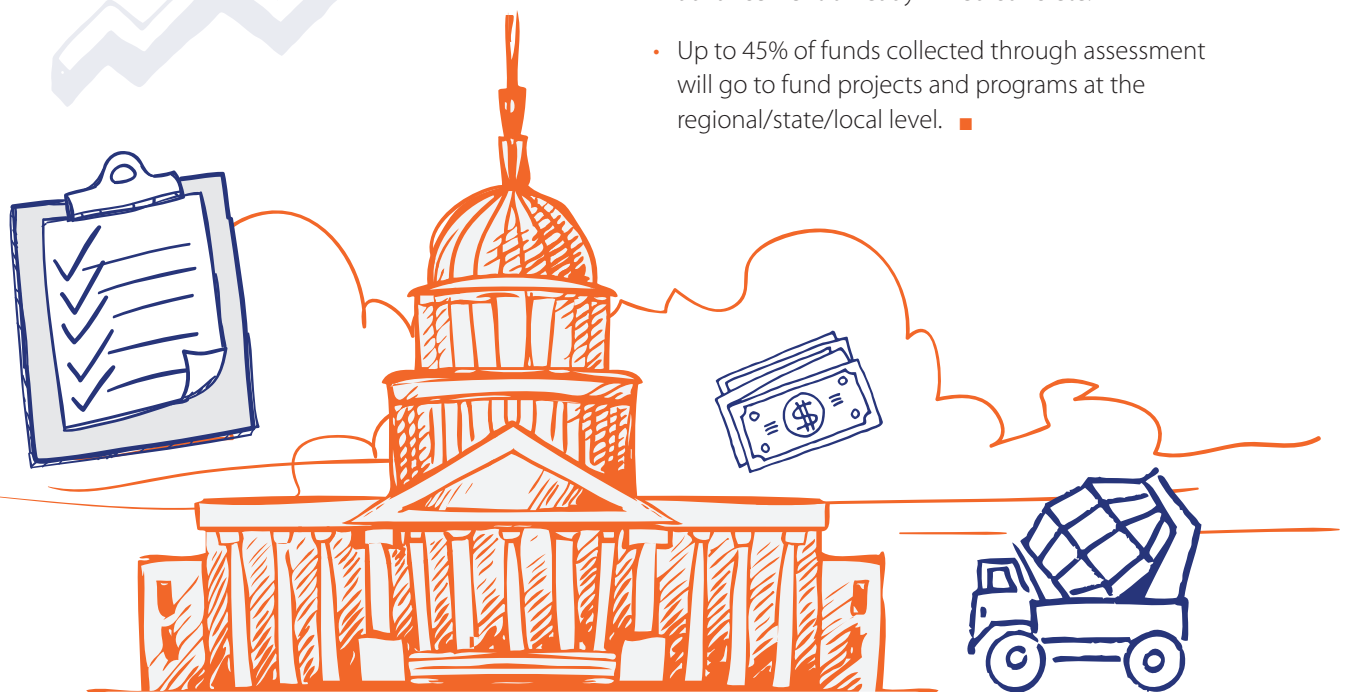
Check-off programs are directed by industry-governed boards, appointed by the Secretary of a U.S. agency. In the case of ready mixed concrete, this would be the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce. These boards are responsible for allocating funds and approving business plans and programs. Check-off program participants have the right to retain or discontinue their respective programs.

How is the federal government involved in check-off programs?

A check-off program for the ready mixed concrete industry must be established by an act of Congress. The U.S. Department of Commerce would have primary oversight responsibilities.

Features of a National Ready Mixed Concrete Industry Check-Off Program:

- With the exception of concrete produced specifically for highway paving, all ready mixed concrete produced in a permitted plant and delivered in a revolving mixer or agitator truck would fall under assessment.
- Assessments will be based on annual production (cubic yards).
- For the purpose of the industry referendum, votes will be assigned proportionately according to the number of plants; with one vote assigned for each plant. For example: if ABC Concrete Co. owns 15 ready mixed concrete plants, ABC Concrete will have 15 votes. A simple majority of votes cast will be required to pass the referendum.
- The RMC Check-Off Program will be governed by a Board of Directors nominated by the industry and appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. The Board will consist of 30 members, with three representatives from each of 10 established regions. Of these, one from each of the established "classes": 0-6 plants, 7-25 plants and 26 or more plants, will be appointed.
- Allocation of check-off funds will be limited to 501c3 or 501c6 organizations whose mission is the advancement of ready mixed concrete.
- Up to 45% of funds collected through assessment will go to fund projects and programs at the regional/state/local level. ■



ACCIDENT REPORT

OSHA Injury Recordkeeping/ Reporting Requirements Change January 1, 2015

In mid-September, OSHA published a final rule updating the injury and illness recordkeeping requirements to expand the list of severe injuries and illnesses that employers must report to OSHA. According to OSHA, “The final rule will allow OSHA to focus its efforts more effectively to prevent fatalities and severe work-related injuries and illnesses.”

The changes:

Starting January 1, 2015, all employers (facilities) with 11 or more employees must report:

- All work-related fatalities within 8 hours; and
- Within 24 hours, all work-related inpatient hospitalizations, all amputations and all losses of an eye.

How to report:

You can report to OSHA by:

- Calling OSHA's free and confidential number:
1-800-321-6742
- Calling your closest OSHA area office during normal business hours
- Using the new online form that will soon be available.

Notes:

Only fatalities occurring within 30 days of the work-related incident must be reported to OSHA. For an inpatient hospitalization, amputation or loss of an eye, these incidents must be reported to OSHA only if they occur within 24 hours of the work-related incident.

Establishments located in states under Federal OSHA jurisdiction must begin to comply with the new requirements on January 1, 2015. Establishments located in states that operate their own safety and health programs should check with their state plan for the implementation date of the new requirements. ■



Political Action Committee (PAC) GOLF OUTING



The IL-Concrete PAC hosted its inaugural golf tournament on Wednesday, September 3rd at Pine Lakes Golf Club. The turnout was great in Washington with nearly 80 golfers participating.

Winners included:

First Flight – Jim Randolph, Toby Knott, Matt Morrison and Dean Bush
Second Flight – Bruce Grohne, Lou Marcy, Bill Plantan and Jim Amundsen
Third Flight – Randy Ziarek, Roger Anderson and Jim Clarke
Longest Drive – Dan Larson
Short Stick Long Drive – Jordan Smith
Closest to the Pin – Tim Warden
Long Putt – Tim Warden

We would like to thank all of the companies that helped sponsor the event:

Buzzi Unicem, Cemex, Continental Cement, ESSROC, Holcim, Illinois Cement, Lafarge, Lehigh Cement, St. Marys Cement, Vulcan, CON-TECH, Hanson Material Service, McNeilus, WR Grace & Co, ChemStation Chicago, Peter J. Poulos Consultants

Donations:

FS, Humboldt Manufacturing, Holcim, CON-TECH, McNeilus, Barnes Industrial Group

*Thanks for your support of the concrete industry in Illinois.
We look forward to seeing all of you again next year!*

Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association's ANNUAL CONVENTION



March 25-27, 2015

***Naples Beach
Hotel & Golf Club***
(Naples, FL)

Hotel Reservations:

- Call 1-800-237-7600 and mention that you are with IRMCA to receive the special room rate. Or you can book online at www.naplesbeachhotel.com/node/2125.
- Please use wiscill as the passcode.
- Check in time - 4:00PM / Check out time - 12:00PM

Meeting Registration:

To Register online, go to www.irmca.org

Questions?

Call 309-862-2144 or Email: irmca@irmca.org

Tell It Like It Is!



By John Albinger

THE IMPORTANCE OF TESTING AND KNOWING YOUR PRODUCT

Where do you and your company stand on testing?

- 1) Don't own ANY testing equipment
- 2) Own equipment but don't do ANY testing – no need, never have problems
- 3) Rely on other's tests – by inspectors on the job, IDOT, or admixture companies
- 4) Test only when absolutely need to
- 5) Equipment calibration
 - a. Periodically
 - b. Never
- 6) Certified Personnel – Level I, 2, 3
 - a. No one
 - b. One or more certified
 - c. Depend on local testing labs

Why should you test?

- 1) To know, before delivery, the performance of your product
- 2) To evaluate consistency
- 3) To make necessary changes to the mix
 - a. Determine what you submit
 - b. To be cost effective
 - c. Enhance performance

Believe it or not, I'm not going to judge what you do or don't do!!!! Those decisions are yours; but, again believe it or not, I have a couple of comments:

- If you do nothing you are "playing with fire" because sooner or later you WILL have problems and your fate WILL be determined by others
- If you rely only on others, you are assuming they are doing things correctly and that the test results are reliable
- If you don't regularly calibrate your equipment, you don't even know if your results are accurate
- If the people who test are not trained/certified, there is no certainty that results are correct
- Testing will tell you if your concrete is OVER performing, thus costing you money
- Proper testing allows you to optimize your mixes – save money – be more competitive
- If your test results are inconsistent it may mean batching or mixing problems
- If you have your own testing results, you will be prepared to defend your concrete

Want to be a leader or follower?

Not everyone wants to be the leader in their market area. However, a company recognized as a leader, one who regularly tests and employs certified personnel, will most always get more consideration when bidding a job: contractors feel more assured of the performance of the concrete they are purchasing and placing.

Lastly – knowing your product makes money and not knowing costs money! ■

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Education & Training

New product and technique training & certification, technical seminars for members and their customers, conventions, webinars, mailings and more.

Safety & Environmental

Committee involvement with OSHA and EPA allows IRMCA to monitor activity and give industry input and has resulted in IRMCA producing widely accepted procedure manuals.

Promotion

Advocating the advantages of ready mix concrete, full and part-time promoters reach decision makers throughout Illinois and are available to assist IRMCA members with their promotion efforts.

Political Affairs

Association lobbyists champion pro-industry legislation, as well as update members on important issues and encourage their involvement.

Technical Assistance

IRMCA technical consultants are available to members. Additionally, the technical committee meets regularly with IDOT and others to further the goals of the industry.

Certification

IRMCA locally sponsors the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association's Pervious Concrete Contractor Certification program.

Scholarship Support

IRMCA annually awards scholarships to Illinois students studying civil engineering at universities in Illinois. Selectively, graduate study scholarships and summer internships are offered.

Annual Events

Annually, members have the opportunity to attend the Short Course, Annual Convention, Promotion Meeting and Scholarship Golf Outing. Additionally, other meetings are scheduled as needed.

COMMUNICATIONS

Association Publications

IRMCA publishes a widely distributed and comprehensive membership directory, quarterly newsletters and numerous special issue promotion and procedural publications, many of which have received national attention.

Website & Social Media

The Association continually develops its website to offer timely industry news, product information, links to organizations world-wide, downloads and more. IRMCA also has its own Facebook, Twitter, Google+ and YouTube pages for instant access of activities going on in the state of Illinois.

The Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association (IRMCA) is a non-profit trade organization that represents Illinois ready mix producers, suppliers and contractors. As an organization, our purpose is to achieve common goals such as education & training, promotion and advocacy that cannot be met individually. IRMCA strives to be the voice of the ready mix industry in Illinois and ceaselessly promote the increased use of high quality, durable concrete. *Thank you for showing interest in the Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association.*





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Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association's 2015 SHORT COURSE



January 5 & 6, 2015

To Register:

Call 800-235-4055 or go to www.irmca.org
PAR*A*DICE Hotel & Casino, 21 Blackjack Blvd, East Peoria, IL

Hotel Reservations:

800-547-0711 or www.paradicecasino.com

SCHEDULED SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Bridging the Mighty Mississippi River

*Randy C. Hitt, P.E.,
Construction & Materials
Liaison Engineer, MoDOT*

Internal Curing

*W. Jason Weiss,
Professor of Civil Engineering,
Purdue University*

IDOT – Update and Changes for 2015

*Matt Mueller,
Engineer of Tests, IDOT*

*Dan Tobias, Materials
& Physical Research, IDOT*

CDL Medical Certification

Debbie Anklam R.N., MS

RMC Check-Off Initiative

*Robert A. Garbini,
President, National Ready Mixed
Concrete Association*

Environmental Update

*Mitch Mariotti, Environmental
Manager, Prairie Material*

Promoting Pervious Concrete

Brian Lutey, Ozinga Chicago

Legislative Update

*Jim Randolph, P.B.I. Trucking
and IRMCA Government Activities*