



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Efficient committee leadership

By the time this issue is published, another PCI Committee Days and Membership Conference will have taken place. For those who aren't aware, committees officially meet twice a year (at Committee Days in the spring and the PCI Convention in the fall), but many meet face to face four or more times per year in addition to frequent teleconferences or virtual meetings via the internet.

Numerous committees cover the gamut of our business, but technical committees (20 by latest count) are by far the most numerous, as would be expected of a technical institute. The work of these dedicated individuals has made PCI what it is today, substantially advancing this mode of construction in the United States and influencing international design and construction.

My experience as a member of a PCI committee began more than 25 years ago when I had the good fortune to serve on the Connection Details Committee, chaired by Ed Sturm. This committee was just completing *Design and Typical Details of Connections for Precast and Prestressed Concrete*. I recall being somewhat in awe of the participants in that meeting and quickly concluded that I had stumbled on a tremendous learning opportunity. Besides the technical knowledge gained, I saw how results are achieved. With an all-volunteer group of experts, that is not easy! It didn't take long to recognize the price of admission to committee membership: countless hours of review, preparation, discussion, revision, and negotiation in pursuit of the final objective. If we were to tabulate the aggregate value of the time and travel of our many volunteer participants, the cost would be staggering.

In the President's Memo in the January issue of *Concrete International*, Ken Hover discussed leadership that is "worthy of our members." Leadership must provide the mechanism for committee success. Committee chairs must have clear agendas and control the meetings to further progress and optimize results. Council chairs (all PCI committees report to one of seven councils) need to provide clear direction, support, and follow-up to implement the institute's agenda.

Finally, the board of directors must clearly communicate the strategic vision. To optimally represent the interests of the whole, we as the board must solicit input from our members and encourage their participation. By doing so, we build consensus on those important points of focus that will ensure our future. We owe this not only to those who so willingly volunteer but also to the institute as a whole.

I offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to all who have committed so much of their time and talent through the years to make PCI what it is. May we who have inherited the tasks be truly worthy of those who have come before us and diligent in preparing the way for success for those who follow. ▮



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