

FROM PCI HEADQUARTERS

Risser named new president of PCI



Bob Risser, the new PCI president, was introduced to PCI staff Tuesday, June 9. He met with staff members in the PCI headquarters conference room, where this photo was taken. Courtesy of Paul Grigonis.

PCI has named Robert J. Risser its new president. Risser has more than 20 years of executive association management experience and, prior to joining PCI, was the president and CEO of the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute (CRSI) in Schaumburg, Ill.

“Bob has made significant contributions throughout his career and helped grow each organization he has worked for. He prides himself on developing strong value propositions for members through a leadership model that is driven by collaboration,” says PCI chairman of the board, Chris Pastorius. “We are very pleased to have an executive of Bob’s caliber take the helm of our institute.”

Risser joined CRSI in 2006 and has accomplished many key objectives, including leading CRSI to become an American National Standards Institute–accredited Standards Development Organization, as well as developing CRSI’s government affairs committee and establishing its Rebar Political Action Committee. Before joining CRSI, he was the executive director of the Michigan Concrete Paving Association for 10 years. He has also served in a variety of construction- and concrete-related roles, including director of engineering design, director of market development, and engineering editor.

“I am honored and excited to be asked to serve such a fine organization as PCI,” Risser says. “I look forward to meeting the PCI members and regional directors and working with the PCI staff to help lead PCI into this next phase.”

Risser serves the ACI Foundation as a member of the board of directors for the Strategic Development Council and the executive committee of the Concrete Research Council. He was elected the first formal chairman of the Concrete and Masonry Related Associations group.

Risser received his master’s and bachelor’s degrees in civil engineering from the University of Illinois and is a registered professional engineer.

PCI FELLOWS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

PCI is accepting nominations for PCI Fellows, to be awarded during the 2016 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference at The Precast Show in Nashville, Tenn. Please submit nominations by mail to PCI Headquarters, Attn: President’s Office, 200 W. Adams Street, Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60606 or email to bcoleman@pci.org by September 7, 2015. An official application form is available at https://www.pci.org/Publications/Submissions_Center/. For more information, contact Rebecca Coleman at bcoleman@pci.org or (312) 583-6783.

PCI MEDAL OF HONOR CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the PCI Medal of Honor, to be awarded during the 2016 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference at The Precast Show in Nashville, Tenn., should be submitted via mail by September 7, 2015, to PCI Headquarters, Attn: President’s Office, 200 W. Adams Street, Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60606 or by email to bcoleman@pci.org. Please submit nominations in letter format with appropriate biographical and supporting information attached. Endorsements from others supporting the nomination are encouraged. For more information, contact Rebecca Coleman at bcoleman@pci.org or (312) 583-6783.

NORMAN L. SCOTT PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER AWARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

In 2013, Norm Scott died unexpectedly. He was an icon of the precast/prestressed concrete industry. To honor his legacy, PCI has established the Norman L. Scott Professional Engineer Award. The award will next be presented at the 2016 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference at The Precast Show in Nashville, Tenn. Nominations are being accepted until December 7, 2015. An official application form is available at https://www.pci.org/Publications/Submissions_Center/. For more information, contact Rebecca Coleman at bcoleman@pci.org or (312) 583-6783.

FUNDING THE PCI FOUNDATION: WHAT IT IS AND ... WHAT IT IS *NOT*



Jim Voss
PCI Foundation treasurer

When the PCI Foundation was first conceived in 2001, the trustees had to ask, who will fund our efforts? Unfortunately, very few entities in the precast concrete industry stepped forward to say "I will!" Several major donors made five-year commitments to really get our programs started and ended up launching some of the most innovative instructional education projects, not only for the precast concrete industry, but for the design world.

With the recession came a dip in funding for our work. Now that the economy is picking up, we have seen several of those initial investors returning to help us continue our work. Although our missions closely align and we work closely together, PCI Foundation is a separate organization from the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute. That means our funding comes *only* from donors, *not* from any membership dues paid to PCI.

During 2014, the PCI Foundation received a total of 125 donations from 84 sources. These donations totaled almost \$350,000 and came from 33 individuals, 18 producer members, 20 associate members, 6 regions, and 7 other affiliated companies, such as engineering firms and erectors. Because our funding comes solely from donations (again, it is not part of your PCI membership dues), we are not reaching the broader percentage of our membership to maintain the strength of participation that is needed. *We can do much better than this!*

The work we have been able to accomplish so far has been remarkable and *is* making a difference. If you visit with one of the studios and meet the students, you begin to recognize what is possible if the industry can pull together and fund more programs at more schools. Simply, these studios turn out many more new advocates for precast concrete who will come back to us in future business. Learn more about the high-quality programs we are funding by visiting the website at pci-foundation.org. There, you will meet some of the students and professors who will make our future remarkable.

Following are some of the programs you might learn about:

- At Clemson University, engineering and architecture students in a multisemester seminar are designing a unique precast concrete installation in conjunction with the master planning office on campus.
- At the New Jersey Institute of Technology, students are bringing precast concrete solutions to mayors' conferences studying hurricane-resistant building.
- At the University of Southern California, students are working with the National Park Service to create precast concrete structures at Joshua Tree National Park.
- At the University of Texas at Arlington, students are working on creating precast concrete sound wall technology that is both absorptive and reflective.

All of these young people will be in the workforce in a very short time. They are our "soldiers of precast" in the very near future. When you meet them, you will better understand the enthusiasm they have for precast concrete and you will, hopefully, want to be part of what makes it happen. We hope for your support.

Concrete Chefs raises \$8000 for PCI Foundation



From left, Alex Morales, PCI's managing director of education and information systems, with members of the current Leadership PCI class, Jordan Pelphrey, Lisette Fernandez, Colin Van Kampen, Roksana Tagizadeh, Dola Erla, Spring McEwen, Joe Tuttle, and Edgar Wong, enjoy the Concrete Chefs dinner at JVI in Lincolnwood, Ill. Courtesy of Marty McIntyre.



Robert Vitelli of Blakeslee Prestress Inc. (left) and Jim Voss of JVI (right) taste some home-brewed beer made by PCI Foundation Trustee Richard Miller (center) of the University of Cincinnati. Courtesy of Marty McIntyre.

More than 300 industry guests gathered for a night of fine food and catching up with friends during the Spring PCI Chicago Committee Days and Membership Conference as the Concrete Chefs put on their ninth dinner. On Thursday, May 1, 2015, Jim Voss of JVI opened the doors of his Lincolnwood, Ill., facility to the crowd. The chefs began preparations in the gourmet kitchen days in advance, ensuring that there would be plenty of food and drink. This year, the chefs included Denise Voss, Jim Voss, Robert Vitelli of Blakeslee Prestress, Dick Taylor of Strand-Tech Martin, Ted Coons of Spillman, Thomas D'Arcy of The Consulting Engineers Group, and Chuck Magnesio of JVI. The dinner, originally conceived as a fun gathering, has taken on a new life in recent years as a fundraiser for the PCI Foundation. This year, more than \$8000 was raised to support programs at schools of architecture, engineering, and construction management throughout the United States. —Source: Marty McIntyre

Freedman receives highest honor from ACI Illinois



Saturday, May 23, 2015, at the American Concrete Institute Illinois's annual dinner in Chicago, Ill., Sidney Freedman, PCI director of architectural systems and industrial operations and safety, was honored with the Henry Crown Award, the organization's highest honor. Recipients of the award have established a record of professional excellence, have extensive involvement in the ACI national organization, and have made substantial contributions to the concrete industry for more than 50 years. Freedman has worked at PCI since 1973 and, prior to that, he spent seven years working for the Portland Cement Association. In 1994, Freedman was named an ACI Fellow for his years of work serving as an active member of 13 of its technical committees.

Freedman chose to give his \$1000 Henry Crown Award to the Civil and Environmental Engineering Fund at Northeastern University in Boston, Mass.

—Source: ACI Illinois

PCI Foundation hosting barbecue competition in September



This September, precast concrete industry plants and suppliers across the United States and Canada can team up to sponsor a lunch or dinner barbecue for employees and raise money for the PCI Foundation at the same time.

The PCI Foundation will send out a package of materials, including information on foundation programs, a banner, and PCI Foundation posters. The host company either supplies the barbeque or finds a sponsor for the event. Attendees make a small donation to the PCI Foundation, with a suggested minimum donation of \$5.

After the event, participants will send the cumulative donations to the PCI Foundation along with information about their program. A panel of judges selected by the PCI Foundation Trustees will review the entries and award prizes. Companies will compete for the grand prize, a high-end grill valued at \$2500, sponsored by Endicott. Companies that register in advance, supply information after the program, submit a photo of their event, and make a donation to the PCI Foundation following the event will be eligible for the grand prize. A winner will be drawn from all completed entries in

the competition on October 15, 2015. Other awards will be given for the following:

- highest percentage of employees attending
- highest percentage of employee families and friends attending
- best event photo
- most meat grilled
- most unique menu item
- most creative extra fundraiser

Any company or organization that registers a barbecue event during the month of September 2015 can participate, including precast concrete fabricators, erectors, suppliers, regional organizations, and other groups. Two or more companies can team up to enter the competition as a single entry.

—Source: Marty McIntyre

Krohn named SEI Fellow



The Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) named Jason Krohn, PCI's managing director of technical activities, a new fellow during its Structures Congress

in Portland, Ore. SEI established the SEI Fellow to recognize a select group of distinguished SEI members as leaders and mentors in the structural engineering profession.

Design force level and precast concrete diaphragm design proposals hit major milestone

The codification of the Diaphragm Seismic Design Methodology (DSDM) research has accomplished another major milestone. Code-change proposals as the result of the DSDM research have now been approved by the American Society of Civil Engineers/Structural Engineering Institute (ASCE/SEI) 7 committee for inclusion within the 2016 edition of *Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures* (ASCE 7).

These code-change proposals include a modification to the diaphragm design force level as well as major changes to the precast concrete diaphragm design methodology. More information related to the DSDM research may be found at http://www.pci.org/Design_Resources/Building_Engineering_Resources/Design_for_Seismic/.

During the PCI Fall Committee Days and Membership Conference in Louisville, Ky., a workshop will be conducted to explain these major changes. A separate registration will be required for the Precast Diaphragm Design Workshop on Wednesday, October 14, 2015.

BIM Fast Team formed

The Business Performance Council formed a BIM Fast Team to explore the business implications of building information modeling (BIM). The BIM Fast Team is working on a document intended to discuss the transformation in approach when BIM data is integrated across an entire enterprise, to provide a guide to the investment in software and training required to get started in BIM, and to discuss the potential return on investment if data is used to improve operations.

To help expedite development of the document, PCI has retained Ikerd Consulting in Dallas, Tex. One of the early tasks to be taken on by the consultant is a survey to determine where we are as an industry.

Mario J. Bertolini Leadership and Innovation Award

created to honor past PCI chairman

To honor the legacy of Mario J. Bertolini, an icon of the precast/prestressed concrete industry, PCI has established the Mario J. Bertolini Leadership and Innovation Award. Bertolini was president of Blakeslee Prestress Inc. in Branford, Conn., for many years and chairman of PCI in 1989. The award will be presented for the first time at the 2016 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference at The Precast Show in Nashville, Tenn. Nominations are being accepted until November 2, 2015.


To be eligible, nominees must meet the following requirements:

- The candidate must be living at the time of selection and be or have been employed in a management position with PCI producer member firms for a minimum of 20 years.
- The candidate must have served for a minimum of five years in an executive position (such as chairman, president, chief executive officer, chief operating officer, or other similar position) with a single PCI producer member firm.
- The candidate must have served on the PCI Board of Directors.
- The candidate must have served on one or more PCI committees, demonstrating a wide range of interests.
- The candidate, through his or her leadership, must have advanced the use of precast/prestressed concrete with innovative production, erection, or construction procedures.

Any nominee not selected will require renomination in a subsequent year in order to be considered again. The criteria for selection of the Mario J. Bertolini Leadership and Innovation Award are the following:

- The recipient shall be an individual who exhibits the personal and professional traits that Mario Bertolini exemplified.
- The recipient shall have made very significant contributions to PCI and the precast/prestressed concrete industry over an extended period of time.
- The recipient shall have provided volunteer service for the benefit of the general public, the community, and charitable organizations.
- The recipient shall have been nominated by an individual member in good standing of PCI, an employee of an organizational member in good standing of PCI, or an employee of PCI.

Nominations for this award should be made to the Mario J. Bertolini Leadership and Innovation Award Selection Committee and should include a letter identifying the specific characteristics and qualifications of the candidate, including examples that meet the award criteria. The official nomination form must be completed and included with this letter.

For more information, contact Rebecca Coleman at bcoleman@pci.org or (312) 583-6783. 

Compiled by K. Michelle Burgess (mburgess@pci.org) and Jennifer Peters (jpeters@pci.org)

PCI CALENDAR

Events

For the most current information on PCI events, visit <http://www.pci.org/events> or contact Megan Lanning at events@pci.org. For industry events, visit <http://www.pci.org/news/events>.

PCINE Annual Meeting Saybrook Point, Old Saybrook, Conn.	September 14–15, 2015
2015 PCI Fall Committee Days and Membership Conference Louisville, Ky.	October 15–18, 2015
2016 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference at The Precast Show Nashville, Tenn.	March 1–5, 2016
2017 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference at The Precast Show Cleveland, Ohio	February 28–March 4, 2017
2018 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference at The Precast Show Denver, Colo.	February 22–24, 2018

PCI personnel training and certification schools

If you have any questions about the Quality Control School schedule or need help completing a registration form, please contact PCI's director of Education and Information Systems, Alex Morales, at amorales@pci.org or (312) 360-3219. Registration forms are available at <http://www.pci.org/schools>.

Level I/II	August 3–5, 2015	Denver, Colo.
	September 1–3, 2015	Chicago, Ill.
	December 7–9, 2015	Nashville, Tenn.
Level III	August 31–September 3, 2015	Chicago, Ill.
	December 9–12, 2015	Nashville, Tenn.