

Chuck Prussack

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Stewardship Key to Future

This is the first of my Chairman's Messages. Please allow me to introduce myself.

I graduated with a degree in civil engineering in 1976 from Washington State University. Following graduation I went to work for Chicago Bridge and Iron building plate steel structures all over the western United States. I decided to seek a job in Spokane, Wash., when I visited my family for Christmas after three years with Chicago Bridge and Iron because I was getting tired of traveling. Among other companies, I talked to Central Pre-Mix Prestress. I liked what I heard when I interviewed with them: a short time line from designing to seeing that design getting built, a company that encouraged its engineers to spend time in the plant, and a company that built a broad array of products. That mixture fit my personality.

Some of you may remember the person I interviewed with, Wes Westermann, who spent considerable time explaining to me that when you combined prestressing with concrete, these products became a new *transformed* material! Even though I didn't know very much about prestressed concrete, his enthusiasm and belief in the product came through. Nearly 37 years and a few name and company changes later, my coworkers at what is now Oldcastle Precast and I still build amazing things with this *transformed* material. I tell my coworkers, "Don't ever get so jaded at seeing the awesome things we build that you aren't impressed."

Shortly after I began at Central Pre-Mix Prestress, management said they thought I should become involved with PCI. As I reflect on my time in this industry, one of the biggest positives has been my affiliation with PCI. I see PCI members and staff as my friends, in the same business as me, facing the same challenges, sharing similar achievements, and being totally committed to what we do for a living. This industry has excited and enthused me for 37 years, and we as an industry will continue to make inroads in the construction community with this *transformed* material.

What theme do I want to use for this year's Chairman's Messages following Chris Pastorius's powerful "Power of One" theme? What comes to me is the word *stewardship* and what that means to those of us in this business. What will our successors think of the job we did passing this business to them? I think about some of the founders of PCI and the companies that began in the 1950s and the people who founded them. History would judge them as having done a pretty good job of passing the business to us and being good stewards. Now it's our turn, as we bring new people into our midst. Can and will we put enough of our energy and resources into our people, products, innovation, marketing, and code vigilance to continue to be good stewards? These themes came up at the recent CEO Summit in Louisville, Ky. In the succeeding months, I'll talk more about what good stewardship should look like in these different areas. [1](#)



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