

Chuck Prussack

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

PCI and NPCA put on a great event

Reflecting on this year's PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference colocated with the National Precast Concrete Association's (NPCA's) Precast Show March 1–5, 2016, in Nashville, Tenn., I've been asking myself and others how it went because it was a pretty big change from what we are used to: a convention in the fall with only PCI members. I have heard quite a few comments from attendees. In no certain order, following is some of what I heard and think.

The Precast Show trade show was definitely larger than what we are used to having at the PCI convention. Although some of the things exhibited aren't relevant to typical PCI manufacturers, many were. The energy level was high, and people pointed out to me (and I saw for myself) that there were a lot of positive feelings about how well the show went.

The PCI activities that I was used to seeing, such as presentations, educational sessions, and committee meetings, looked the same. As we continue to colocate, I expect to see more NPCA and PCI joint participation. I worried previously that we might lose our PCI identity, but that was not the case.

I attended a joint NPCA–PCI board meeting and a joint NPCA–PCI Executive Committee meeting. I enjoyed talking to the NPCA folks—such as its president Ty Gable, my NPCA chairman counterpart Andy Wieser, and its members—and hearing about their businesses. Generally, what NPCA plants do is very different from what PCI plants do, but we share many of the same concerns. NPCA is attuned to attracting and retaining people, improving safety, enhancing quality, making good concrete, repairing mistakes, continuing education, and working with its customers. So is PCI, on every one of these items. Further exploration and collaboration in these areas make sense. For example, if NPCA already has a good session on batching self-consolidating concrete, perhaps we should make it available for PCI members as well.

In the eyes of our customers, PCI's certification of prestressed concrete products makes who certifies what understandable, PCI being the certifier for prestressing plants. If both NPCA and PCI continue to make this clear, the marketplace benefits.

One event that NPCA hosted, the party at the Wild Horse Saloon in downtown Nashville, was great! I'm told NPCA has a tradition of hosting a social event like this every year at the Precast Show. PCI members need to plan on attending this in greater numbers. These NPCA folks really know how to have a "rockin'" good time! Put this event on your radar for next year.

I heard a little feedback that there was too much exhibit hall time and that the overall event was too long. I'm sure PCI and NPCA staffs will work toward solutions to these relatively minor issues.

My summary: this colocated event was great, and I'm looking forward to what next year in Cleveland will bring! 📌



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