

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greater than the sum of the parts


Because the theme of this issue of *PCI Journal* is Slabs, Panels, and Hollow-core, it reminded me that any precast concrete structure is the sum of all the pieces that come together to play the role for which they were designed. It reminds me of the recent reorganization of the PCI Board of Directors and that sometimes the result can be greater than the sum of the parts.

Since its inception in 1954, PCI has designated six geographic zones across the United States. The institute bylaws required that the PCI Board of Directors include twelve producer members, two from each zone, to ensure geographic representation on the board. Producer members in each zone would gather each year to compare notes, learn about PCI activities, and elect their representatives to the board.

During the ensuing decades, producer members came together to create independent local precast concrete associations whose main goal was education and promotion of the industry to grow the market. Over time, member meetings and industry action took place more at these local organizations. In recent years, efforts have been made to strengthen the cooperation and partnership between PCI and the local organizations. We are very proud that all these local organizations are officially affiliated with PCI, either as a full chapter or as a local partner.

We have heard loud and clear from PCI members that helping to grow the precast/prestressed concrete market is a top priority. They have, in turn, heard from me that the only way to do that nationally is by doing it effectively at the local level—the sum of the parts. I'm happy to report that we've strengthened our partnership with the local groups even further, meeting on monthly calls with the local executive directors and recently making them all voting members of the PCI Marketing Council to ensure that our efforts are in alignment.

The last part of the structure came together at the 2017 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference earlier this year in Cleveland, Ohio. (I hope you were there; if not, you missed a fantastic event!) At that meeting, the PCI Board of Directors, acting on the recommendation of the Task Group on Funding and Reform chaired by Dan Juntunen, PCI chairman, voted to eliminate the traditional zone representation of producers on the board. Instead, the positions were replaced with official producer representatives of the local PCI chapters. These positions are now filled by a vote of the members of the local organizations, with the goal that the representative is very active and familiar with the activities of the local organization. Through this reorganization, the PCI Board of Directors hopes to further strengthen communication and sharing of best practices across the country, all with the goal of growing the market and providing even greater value to our members.

We welcome the new members to the PCI board and look forward to working together to better serve the membership. I'm confident the result will be a synergy that is much greater than the sum of the parts. 

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