

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PCI and ACI

“Only out of the past can you make the future.”

I came across this quote from Robert Penn Warren's classic novel *All the King's Men* in a recent book review, and I thought it struck a perfect tone for the evolving partnership between PCI and the American Concrete Institute (ACI).

PCI members know that goal 1 of our strategic plan is for PCI to create a building code for precast concrete. The intention of this effort is for the International Code Council to recognize decades' worth of PCI technical material and design methodologies that have been used to design precast, prestressed concrete in the building code. This portion of PCI's body of knowledge, including the *PCI Design Handbook: Precast and Prestressed Concrete* and other documents, is exclusive to PCI and fills gaps that are not addressed in current American Concrete Institute documents, such as ACI's *Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete (ACI 318-14)* and *Commentary (ACI 318R-14)* (ACI 318). Thus, the effort behind goal 1 is meant to supplement ACI 318 for precast concrete design without replicating the fundamentals of structural design currently contained in ACI 318. The urgency of this effort for PCI members cannot be overstated, as there is an increasing number of anecdotes about building officials not accepting designs using PCI methods because they “are not referenced in the code.”

Since the early 1960s, PCI members and staff have participated in ACI committees that addressed precast concrete issues, particularly taking responsibility for the chapters in ACI 318 that addressed precast concrete. It is certainly PCI's intention to continue the partnership with ACI that has existed all these years, though that relationship will continue to evolve, considering our need to serve the PCI members' interest.

To that end, I'm happy to report that the PCI Executive Committee had a very productive meeting with the ACI Executive Committee in late January. Joining the meeting were PCI Technical Activities Council (TAC) chair Ned Cleland and incoming ACI Committee 318 chair Andy Taylor for technical support. The group discussed and clarified objectives on how to move forward together. ACI has suggested the creation of a joint committee exclusively for precast concrete that would produce a document for precast concrete code issues. PCI TAC has designated a task group to identify how such a joint committee would function and its governing principles. We are excited about the possibility that this new approach can meet the needs of PCI's members. We will continue to keep the PCI community informed of progress.

At the 2019 PCI Convention at The Precast Show, we once again have transition on the board of directors. I want to thank outgoing board members Dan Kennedy, Joe Lombard, Michael Paris, Todd Adams, and Greg Gibbons. Thanks also to Ned Cleland and Kimberly Wacker, who are stepping down as chairs of TAC and the Marketing Council, and to past chair Dan Juntunen, who is rotating off the Executive Committee. I especially want to thank outgoing Chairman Mason Lampton of Standard Concrete for his leadership and friendship this past year. Under Mason's leadership, PCI adopted a strategic plan last year that will guide the institute's activities for years to come.

The future of PCI in 2019 is in great hands with its new chairman, Keith Wallis of Prestressed Casting Co. Keith's unmatched dedication to PCI and his many years of experience will serve the membership well in the year ahead. I echo Keith's sentiment that the best way to get maximum value from your membership in PCI is to get involved. **J**

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