

J. Matthew DeVoss

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Everyone can make a difference

I would like to begin my year as chair of PCI's Board of Directors by first thanking outgoing chair Dennis Fink for his remarkable guidance this past year leading our industry through the pandemic and its effects on our industry. I would also like to acknowledge J. Seroky as he steps down from the executive committee and commend him for his many contributions, including helping guide the institute in developing a plan to restore and maintain its financial reserves. J. led the task group that changed how the institute calculates its dues structure, giving the institute long-term funding and stability. I was honored to serve alongside both of these great gentlemen.

Having just returned from a successful PCI Convention and The Precast Show in Kansas City, Mo., I would like to give a special thanks to the entire PCI team. I am finishing my fifth consecutive year on the board of directors, and I have seen the challenges and efforts that the entire team faces in planning an event of that scale. The postpandemic participation and success of these events really shows that the PCI leadership team is working well together. Congratulations again to the entire PCI staff; you are very much appreciated.

For those of you who were not in attendance at our annual membership luncheon in Kansas City, I would like to touch on a few points that I made during my address as incoming board chair. First, I want to thank my fellow board members for giving me this opportunity; I am most likely the smallest producer member ever to hold the position of chair. Appointing leadership from a small architectural precast concrete plant in the Deep South speaks to the vision and intent of this organization. In this day and age of mergers and consolidation, giving a voice to a member such as myself speaks volumes. For those of you who are not aware, PCI has about 160 producer members. Although about 120 of those members would be considered small producers, they collectively only account for 20% of the overall total sales revenue of PCI. I am sincere in my role of representing these members, and I ask for your experiences, input, and ideas while I am chair.

As for my goals this year, I spent a lot of time in my incoming speech name dropping all of the amazing volunteers that I have met over the past five years. Some were fellow members of the board of directors, and some I met in various task groups or committees or at networking events. Those people and their association, expertise, and friendships are valuable to me and to the industry, and I would like to enlarge that circle and grow participation. That Thursday afternoon in Kansas City in March, I pledged that my goal was to help lead PCI in establishing new workforce recruitment and development plans to attract talent to the precast concrete industry at all levels. Further, we want to foster diversity and inclusion in the precast concrete industry, welcoming all who want to learn the business. I truly believe, after speaking with numerous industry leaders, that staffing is one of the largest hurdles we face. We want each plant to have gainful employment opportunities and interested, skilled, and satisfied workers in all levels of production and management. I hope that with all of our help, efforts, and ideas, we can collectively make a difference in the coming year. 📌



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