

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Working together to advance precast concrete

PCI recently hosted the annual workshop of the Regional Council at our offices in Chicago, Ill. The council is made up of the executive directors of the local PCI chapters and partner organizations. It was great that they held the meeting at our office because it allowed multiple PCI staff members to participate in discussions and to brief the executive directors on ongoing programs and new tools and resources such as information on environmental product declarations and to strategize ways to meet the challenges facing the industry to advance the use of precast and precast, prestressed concrete.

Seven of the eleven local executives are new to their positions since I came to PCI eight years ago. With so many new faces, the meeting gave me a chance to reiterate my commitment to supporting local promotion that I first articulated to this group back in 2015 at my first meeting with them. I reminded the group that earlier in my career I also ran a local group in the concrete industry in Michigan, very much like the organizations they now lead. I often say that no matter what role I hold in my career, I'll never stop being a local promoter. The PCI staff and I are committed to doing all we can to support these dedicated industry professionals who are on the front lines with design professionals, departments of transportation, and universities every day, working with our members to educate people about and promote the use of precast concrete.

PCI members may recall that a top goal of PCI's strategic plan is to increase the relative market share of precast concrete. They also may recall that the first strategy of achieving that goal in the plan is to have a network of highly effective local organizations across the country. It is recognized that we cannot achieve this goal without them. The PCI Board of Directors was reorganized in 2017, eliminating the historic zones and formally replacing them with the local organizations in order to strengthen our ability to move the industry forward together.

We are really looking forward to the upcoming meetings at the PCI Committee Days in Tampa, Fla., in October, only the second time the event has been held outside of Chicago. Logistics wouldn't allow us to have a roadshow of The Concrete Chefs, the PCI Foundation event so wonderfully and generously hosted by Jim Voss and JVI when we are in the Chicago area. Nonetheless, we wanted to keep up the tradition of having an event to benefit the PCI Foundation.

On Thursday night, October 5, immediately following the opening reception, there will be a rock and roll concert to benefit the PCI Foundation performed by The Concrete!, led by our own A. J. Ishikawa. The Concrete! has performed at many of the local PCI chapter meetings over the past two years. They are a great time! Food and drinks will be provided by PCI, with all proceeds for the event going to the PCI Foundation. Please sign up for the event on the PCI website at PCI.org to help support the PCI Foundation.

See you in Tampa! 



Bob Risser, PE
PCI President and CEO