President’s Letter

Fall is upon us; the time of year when in a week we go from 85 degrees on one day to 45 degrees the next. That sure seems to have the same barometer as the economy, many ups and downs. As our industry is still reeling from the past, we hope that 2012 will improve in all facets of the construction industry. As an association, it is the continued mission that our chapter continues to bring positive programs and information to our members.

Included in another section of the Palindrome is news of what is coming up, our fall breakfast on Special Inspections, the winter return of Concrete 101, our annual meeting and awards in April, and the scholarship golf outing in June. Announcements and registration forms will be coming your way as the events get closer. We continue to sponsor the ACI Certifications throughout the state and occasionally certify members from adjoining states. As we all know, certified technicians are the best bet for consistent concrete testing.

The board of directors would like to welcome our 2 newest board members, Ashley Frantz with Great Lakes Chloride and Rich Gardner with CeraTech, Inc. We appreciate their service to the members of the Indiana ACI Chapter and thank their employers for allowing them the time to work with the board. Thanks to all of our board members for participating and serving the ICACI members.

Please keep in mind the upcoming events and if you have any programs that may be of interest to the association, please contact one of our board members.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your 2011 / 2012 ICACI Chapter president. Stay safe and enjoy the upcoming holidays.

Best regards,

Jack Springer
President – Indiana Chapter ACI

Upcoming Events
December: IMI Concrete Plant Tour
January 10: Concrete Maturity Testing – Breakfast Program
February: Concrete 101 Workshop
April: Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet
Special Inspections Program Draws Solid Turnout

An informational breakfast program entitled “Special Inspections: What are they and how should they be administered?” held on October 25 in Indianapolis drew nearly 60 attendees to learn about and discuss this important topic. The provisions of Chapter 17 of the International Building Code (IBC) “Structural Tests and Special Inspections” are excluded from the Indiana Building Code, despite being adopted in some form by 48 other states across the country.

Following sign-in and a hearty breakfast sponsored by F.A. Wilhelm Construction, Don Corson, current Vice-President of ICACI and leader of the Structural Group of American Structurepoint, moderated the program and gave a brief history of the evolution of Special Inspections, the general requirements outlined in the IBC, and the specific provisions of the Indiana Building Code and General Administrative rules. It was pointed out during the presentation that despite the fact that Indiana deletes the Special Inspections provisions of IBC in their entirety from the state Code, inspection of projects is still required and is made the responsibility of the Design Professional in responsible charge of the project. And because the IBC is the model code upon which most local building codes are based, many Design Professionals look to the Special Inspections provisions of the IBC as the most consistent methodology for outlining testing and inspection requirements for their building projects.

Chella Subram, President of Cornerstone Engineering and a member and Past-President of the Structural Engineers Association of Kentucky (SEAOK), presented a history of the adoption and practice of Special Inspections provisions of the IBC in the state of Kentucky. SEAOK has created a document entitled “Special Inspections: Guidelines for Owners, Architects, Engineers, Constructors, Code Officials and Inspectors” containing very detailed descriptions of the requirements for conducting an effective Special Inspections program, including a full set of reporting forms. He indicated that SEAOK has agreed to make these forms available in electronic format for the purpose of
implementing Special Inspections by Indiana practitioners, upon request. The guide itself is available in .pdf format via the SEAOK website (www.SEAOK.org).

Following his presentation of the successful adoption into the Kentucky Building Code, Chella, whose firm has performed Special Inspections on numerous projects, illustrated various construction deficiencies noted in the field that were able to be corrected prior to completion of construction. Some deviations from the contract documents were very subtle and would not be easily identifiable as deficiencies except by the Design Professional, which is why it is SEAOK’s recommendation that the “SER should serve as the Special Inspector whenever possible and practical.”

Kevin Hendrickson, Construction Materials Testing Manager for ATC Associates, rounded out the presentation by clarifying the roles of the Design Professional, Contractor, Special Inspector, and “Agents of the Special Inspector” (testing agencies) in the Special Inspection process. He also clarified particular inspection and testing tasks required by a Special Inspections program that would likely be additional to what is currently being written into technical specifications of projects.

Kevin pointed out that the most appropriate situation is for Special Inspections to be provided under the direction of the Owner or the Design Professional. When Special Inspections are made a part of the Contractor’s responsibilities, a conflict of interest may arise. It was pointed out that due to Indiana’s lack of clear direction on this point, currently on some projects in Indiana Special Inspections are being made a part of the Contractor’s responsibilities despite the potential conflict of interest. For this reason, it was indicated that it is imperative that whenever Special Inspections are required, there must be included in the contract documents very clear definition of the responsibilities of each party.

The relevance of the program was demonstrated with a number of poignant questions and intense discussion well beyond the end of the hour-long program. Feedback from attendees confirmed that this program was useful and timely.
Value Realized – ICACI Student Certification Program

In keeping with our mission to educate, the ICACI now provides ACI Concrete Field Testing Technician, Grade I, certification programs at colleges and universities statewide. The board recently implemented the program in response to strong demand from both schools and industry. Now, by demonstrating their knowledge and ability to properly perform the basic field tests through certification, recent graduates and summer interns alike have an additional arrow in their quiver when seeking employment. Likewise, testing firms and quality departments statewide are now benefitting by moving qualified, certified new-hires into service faster with less training required. A true win-win, the program benefits the students, the industry and everyone’s bottom line.

Will Lindquist, Ph.D., P.E., LEED AP BD+C, Assistant Professor at Trine University’s Reiners Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, wrote of the program: “Last year we had 14 students participate and I’m expecting even more this semester. I really appreciate the help of ICACI and I know that students do as well. I know of at least four students who received internships this past summer as a result of the certification, and I’m sure that several others job prospects were helped as well. The other purpose of offering the certifications to these students is to improve the concrete industry. I don’t anticipate that most of the students will perform these tests regularly as a part of their full-time job, but they will know how to properly perform the tests (and will have the certification to prove it) and can expect the same from others.”

To date, the ICACI has provided ACI Field Testing Technician Certification programs at Trine University, Evansville University, Valparaiso University and Southern Indiana University. If you are interested in hosting the program, please contact an ICACI board member. Also, if you are a student or firm that has benefitted from the program, the board would love to hear about your experience.

Annual IRMCA/IN-ACPA/ICACI Baseball Outing

ICACI in cooperation with co-sponsors IRMCA and IN-ACPA held its annual baseball outing at downtown Indianapolis’ Victory Field on Saturday, June 11th. A great time was had by all those who attended! ICACI members and their families arrived early to enjoy a pre-game picnic buffet and casual conversation before settling in for an exciting night of baseball. Those hearty enough to stick it out were rewarded in the bottom of the ninth inning with an Indians’ 1-0 walk-off victory over the Gwinnett Braves. As in years past, the event provided a great opportunity to break bread with professional colleagues and meet their families in a relaxed setting. We hope to see everyone again next year!
The 2011 ICACI Scholarship Golf outing was held on June 7, 2011 at the beautiful River Glen Country Club. The weather was very accommodating, even to a point of plain HOT, but hot beats rain every time on the golf course. This was the 2nd year that the outing was held at River Glen, and again, they really worked hard to insure that the event went off as scheduled, and plans are to return as a 3-peat.

Winners were:
1st Place: Team of Scott Barry, Darrin Litteral, Darren Litteral and Justin Lowder
Long Drive: Justin Lowder

The outing raised money to help engineering and construction management students at universities all across Indiana. $6,000 will be awarded at the Annual Awards Banquet in April of 2012, and we thank all those who participated in the event.

Watch for information for the 2012 ICACI Scholarship Information coming in early 2012.

Membership Directory Goes Electronic

Making use of 21st century technology, ICACI has transitioned from printed paper-copy membership directories to electronic (pdf) format. The first version of the new directory was sent to our membership in 2011. This change will save the Chapter significant printing costs and allow better real-time management of member information. Information provided on membership renewal forms is retained in a membership database that can be converted relatively quickly into the directory format.

Feedback from members is critical to the maintenance and improvement of the directory. Please alert any ICACI Board member of any inaccurate information in the directory or of any recommendations you may have for improvement. Also, make sure to fill your membership renewal form with current information as this will be used to create the updated annual directory.
ACI Chapter Roundtable Held

The 80th ACI Chapter Training and Roundtable meeting was held on September 25 and 26 in Hartford, Connecticut. Members from eleven local ACI chapters around the country met to hear from ACI National Directors and to discuss methods to improve Chapter operations and value to members. Don Corson represented the Indiana Chapter.

ACI President Ken Hover was on hand to lead off the program and to provide motivational support to the attending Chapter officers. Mr. Hover made clear the point that ACI is not an organization… it is people, serving other people, to enhance our profession.

The responsibilities and commitments of chapter officers was the first issue discussed. Foremost among these were determining and maintaining the chapter’s mission and purpose and executing the chapter’s business in a legal and ethical manner. Among the particular topics discussed were Chapter Operations, including legal issues of having a chapter, incorporation, tax issues and insurance requirements.

Among the key commitments required of Board Members discussed were:

- Know the chapter’s mission, policies, programs, services, strengths and needs.
- Perform competently.
- Keep up with developments in the industry and the chapter.
- Maintain confidentiality and speak for the Board only when authorized to do so.
- Serve the organization as a whole rather than a special interest group.
- Be willing to accept special assignments and leadership roles.

Another key topic discussed was fund raising. It became apparent that golf outings are a common theme for chapters everywhere and a great opportunity for building relationships among the members as well as raising funds for worthy causes and chapter operations. It was apparent that many chapters make their golf outings major affairs generating huge interest and great turnouts.

Certification programs were discussed and pointers were given for effectively sponsoring these important functions. A thorough discussion of a new certification program for Adhesive Anchor Installers was presented by Mike Morrison, ACI’s Manager for Certification Business Development. Created due to ACI Code requirements for certified installers for particular applications of adhesive anchors, this program as yet has very little sponsorship, so the opportunity exists for chapters to adopt this as a huge potential service and fund generator.

Finally, the issue of chapter websites was discussed. While the ACI maintains a portal for local chapters to convey information through the National website, this website has serious limitations and is not user-friendly. For that reason, many chapters have decided to fund development of their own websites to better convey information to their membership. Currently the Indiana Chapter is investigating potential cost and effort to set up a local website.

The roundtable was very helpful in understanding the requirements for running local chapters and provided useful ideas in helping improve chapter functions.
Evansville Arena (Ford Center) Tour Gives Behind-the-Scenes View

On July 7, ICACI in conjunction with Indiana Ready Mixed Concrete Association (IRMCA) and the Ohio Valley Concrete Promotional Committee, sponsored a tour of the brand new Evansville Arena (Ford Center). Home to the University of Evansville Aces basketball teams and the Evansville Icemen professional hockey team, this new 11,000-seat arena will be a dynamic new focal point of a revitalized Evansville downtown. This project is the 2011 ICACI Project-of-the-Year award winner.

Attendees were treated to lunch and a presentation on the design and construction features of the new facility. Joe Eckhart of Hunt Construction, the project Construction Manager outlined the challenges in coordinating the construction of the arena on a very tight site and aggressive schedule. Chris Minter, design architect and on-site representative from the lead design architecture firm, Populous, gave a detailed description of the many facets and features of the facility. John Krupski, structural engineer and on-site structural representative from American Structurepoint, described the structural design challenges from the fast-tracked foundations and framing packages, special seismic design considerations and coordination with contractors of the construction of critical structural elements.

After the luncheon presentation in Hunt’s field office, the presenters led a walking “hard hat” tour of the facility under construction from arena floor to the upper portions of the seating bowl as well as back-of-house facilities, locker rooms and suite spaces.
In Memoriam

John F. “Jack” McLaughlin, a Distinguished Member of ICACI and Past-President of ACI, passed away on March 29, 2011, in West Lafayette. Mr. McLaughlin was a longtime professor and Dean of Purdue University’s Schools of Engineering. Born in New York City on September 21, 1927, McLaughlin was a graduate of Stuyvesant High School, served in the Army Air Corps from 1945 to 1947, and received his bachelor’s degree from Syracuse University in 1950, and master’s and PhD degrees from Purdue University in 1953 and 1957, respectively.

In his long tenure at Purdue, McLaughlin began as an assistant professor in civil engineering in 1957 and advanced to numerous positions including professor, head of schools of engineering, assistant dean, acting dean and finally was named Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering in 1995. His involvement beyond Purdue was far reaching and he was an Honorary Member of ACI, serving as a Director, Vice-President and finally President (1979-1980). He also chaired the ACI Technical Activities Committee. He was also a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Society for Testing and Materials, receiving the Award of Merit from ASTM in 1984.

Mr. McLaughlin was preceded in death by his wife Eleanor in 2010. He is survived by two daughters, two sons, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Upcoming Certification Dates

The dates below are for upcoming ACI Concrete Field Testing Technician, Level 1 programs that will be held at Builder’s Concrete in Fishers, Indiana in 2011:

November 4-5

Additional Certifications (watch for information coming soon):

December – Indianapolis Area
December – Ft. Wayne
January – Northeast Indiana

First Day: Review Class; Second Day: Written and Practical Exams

Certification Program Policy: Examiners and Supplemental Examiners (Proctors) are required to be a Member of Indiana Chapter ACI; either through an Individual Membership or under a Company Membership.

The ACI – Indiana Chapter extends a big “THANK YOU!!” to Builder’s Concrete for agreeing to host the Indianapolis area certification programs.

For a registration flyer or questions about the program, please contact Eileen Dick ~ phone (317) 872-6302.
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Indiana Chapter ACI Website

The Indiana Chapter has a website where you can find information on upcoming events, such as, ACI certification classes, programs, and golf outings. Membership applications, Award nomination forms, Scholarship applications and other information are also available. Please go to www.concrete.org, then click on the “Chapters” tab and select “Indiana”.

IC-ACI Tax-Exempt Status

As a tax-exempt organization, the Indiana Chapter American Concrete Institute is required to file an annual Return to the Internal Revenue Service. The Return is available for review by any member of IC-ACI. For information, contact Tom Grisinger, Secretary/Treasurer at 317-409-3218 or tgrisinger@lehighcement.com.