**2006 Was a Great Year: Here’s to a Prosperous 2007**

“We’re all working together, that’s the secret” – Sam Walton

As the holiday season approaches and you are busy with many personal and professional activities, the IRMCA staff would like to take the opportunity to thank you, valued Association members, for your continued and invaluable support of the Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association. 2006 was a very successful year because of your sustaining membership and involvement. Thanks to you we exceeded our goals and expanded our services. We look forward to working with you in 2007 and improving the success of our industry. From the staff of IRMCA, we wish you all a very happy and prosperous 2007!

Attention: You may have noticed that the December 2006 issue of the *IRMCA News* is much smaller than usual. Schedules and conflicting circumstances, most notably the limited availability of our *IRMCA News* editor (see “IRMCA Staff News” on page 2), have dictated that for December we include just a few important messages and reminders. Our newsletter will be full length again starting with the March 2007 issue.
IRMCA Staff News

“Our most productive investment remains our people. It is through the dedication, skills and initiative of our people that we have prospered and will continue to move ahead” – Richard Pratt

Special Projects Coordinator Jennifer Bedell, along with husband Dan and daughter Lucy are traveling to China on December 13 to officially welcome daughter Lily into their family. Traveling with them are Jennifer’s parents and seven other families who will also meet their daughters. The group will be gone for 2 ½ weeks before making the 15-hour return flight to the United States on or about the 30th. We wish them Godspeed on this wonderful journey and look forward to Jen’s return to IRMCA in January after things “settle down”.

While we bid goodbye to long-time employee Whitney Rush months ago, we need to do so again as Whitney has continued working for us part-time. Whitney graduates from ISU on December 16th, starts with State Farm December 18th, and is marrying Mark Fryer on December 30th. Congratulations Whitney - on everything!

Administrative Assistant Marissa Innocenzi has announced that she will be spending her spring 2007 semester in Florence, Italy studying art history in a program offered through Illinois State University. Marissa hopes to return to part-time employment with IRMCA in the fall of 2007.

Bell Receives Robert Pfanenstiel Scholarship

“Vitality important for a young man or woman is, first, to realize the value of education and then to cultivate earnestly, aggressively, ceaselessly, the habit of self-education” – BC Forbes

The winner of IRMCA’s 2006 Robert “Bob” Pfanenstiel Illinois High School Scholarship is Brian Bell from Sacred Heart–Griffin High School in Springfield, Illinois. Brian is a senior, currently ranked number one in his class, and will be attending Purdue University to pursue a degree in engineering. Brian’s essay has been forwarded to the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association and his essay will be entered in their national competition where the winner can earn up to a $5000 scholarship. Brian’s award will be presented in the spring.

IRMCA Involvement

As we approach a new Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association year and the concurrent end of present office’s terms, it is a perfect time for you, the members of IRMCA to consider your role in your association. While we highly value current committee members, we need “new blood”! We offer opportunities for members to serve on committees such as Safety, Environmental, Scholarship, Legislative, Short Course Planning, Annual Meeting Planning, and our Golf Committee. Also, one of the most rewarding and meaningful things a member of IRMCA can do is to serve on its board of directors. Not only will the association benefit from your input, it is guaranteed that you will find the experience both worthwhile and informative.

We encourage each member to consider more involvement in this association. Please call Bruce Grohne at the association office, 800-235-4055, if you would like to become active on a committee in 2007. If you would like to join IRMCA’s board of directors, you can call Bruce or call President Dennis Probst at 217-342-2115. Please think seriously about your involvement, your association needs you!

Member Opportunities in 2007

“I believe the true road to preeminent success in any line is to make yourself master of that line” – Andrew Carnegie

IRMCA is offering many opportunities in 2007 for its members to keep current with the fast changing concrete industry. We start the year with our 2007 Short Course on January 8th and 9th at the Paradise Hotel and Casino in East Peoria. Come enjoy mixing with over 150 industry friends and listen to Ken Hover talk about exterior residential concrete mixes and blending multiple aggregates and cementitious materials. Get an update on IDOT activities and learn about effects on your business of the 2007 mandates for truck engine production and on the peculiarities of bio-diesel fuel. Learn also about the tilt-up market and how recent successes at IRMCA can help us.

The 2007 Annual Convention is being held at the Indian Wells Resort Hotel in Indian Wells, California on January 18-20. In addition to reasonably nice ambiance, attendees will hear from a representative of Riverside Cement talk about cement manufacturing in California; Bernie Cawley will lay out Michigan’s highly successful parking lot promotion program; Bethany Hynes of the Rocky Mountain Cement Council will talk about sustainability, LEED and the environmental advantages of concrete. We have lined up a concrete repair expert and will have members with some particular sections about IRMCA’s legislative goals for 2007.

In February (dates not yet confirmed), IRMCA will present half-day safety meetings at three sites in Illinois. We will have a presenter who will talk about mandatory record-keeping (improper record-keeping costs big time if you’re audited); we will have a trooper from Commercial Motor Vehicles who talk about truck inspections, weight laws and violations; and we will have a session on worker’s comp and job applicant screening.

To add to all this the ACI Convention (see below) and the many opportunities you’ll have to participate in IRMCA promotional demonstrations and educational seminars throughout the year and you can see that you’ll have ample opportunity to keep current in 2007.
ACI-IL Offers its 2007 Concrete Conference

“Watch, listen, and learn. You can’t know it all yourself...anyone who thinks they do is destined for mediocrity.”
-Donald Trump

The Illinois Chapter of the American Concrete Institute announces its 2007 Concrete Conference scheduled for February 16, 2007 at Drury Lane in Oakbrook. Presentations will reflect concrete trends and challenges, repair techniques, and will highlight many of the new and exciting developments in the concrete industry.

For more information and for registration, call 708-745-5917 or e-mail the chapter at aci-illinois@hotmail.com.

IRMCA’s Newest Member

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