

IRMCA NEWS

Volume 25, Number 4

December



*Happy Holidays
from the IRMCA
Staff (pictured
left to right):
John Reed, JoAnn
McKeown, Marissa
Innocenzi, Bruce
Grohne, Whitney
Rush, and Jennifer
Bedell.*

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.

Officers

Dennis Probst,
President

Ken Highlander,
Vice President

George Mobarak,
Past President

Directors

Jim Amundsen
Tom Beck
Brad Doll
Tim Huiner
Cheryl Moeller
Dennis Oedewaldt
Justin Ozinga
Jon Vrabel

Staff

Bruce Grohne,
Executive Director

Jennifer Bedell,
IRMCA News Editor/
Special Projects
Coordinator

John Reed,
Director of Marketing &
Promotion

JoAnn McKeown,
Office Manager

Whitney Rush,
Office Consultant

Marissa Innocenzi,
Administrative Assistant

Dick Plimpton, P.E.,
Consultant

*Working together to
create value,
teach excellence,
and produce quality.*



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 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



“Vitaly 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 entry 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 becoming more involved 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 in 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 NRMCA 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 share with members some particulars 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 workman’s comp and job applicant screening.

Add to all this the **ACI Convention** (see back cover) 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.

Plan To Attend These Upcoming Events

January 8-9, 2007
Short Course
Par*A*Dice Hotel
East Peoria, IL

January 18-20, 2007
Annual Convention
Indian Wells Resort Hotel

January 22-26, 2007
World of Concrete
Las Vegas

February 2007
Safety Meetings
Date & Time TBA

September 5, 2007
Golf Outing
Pine Lakes Golf Club
Washington, IL

Illinois Ready Mixed
Concrete Association
303 Landmark Dr.,
Ste. 1-A
Normal, IL 61761

Phone: 309-862-2144
800-235-4055
Fax: 309-862-3404
E-mail: irmca@irmca.org
Web: www.irmca.org

Mission

To be the voice for the ready mixed concrete industry in Illinois. To promote the use of quality ready mixed concrete through innovative educational programs. To accomplish common goals as an organization that cannot be done individ-

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

INDIAN WELLS RESORT HOTEL
7661 US Highway 111
Indian Wells, CA 92210
Phone: 800.248.3220
www.indianwellsresort.com



JANUARY 18-20, 2007
PRECEDING WORLD OF CONCRETE

RESORT FEATURES INCLUDE:

- TENNIS
- POOL
- SPA
- GOLF

Mark your Calendars!!
Registration packets will be mailed in November
Do not delay in making
reservations

Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association
303 Landmark Drive, Suite 1-A
Normal, IL 61761
Phone: 309.862.2144 Fax: 309.862.3404 Email: irmca@irmca.org

2007 SHORT COURSE

JANUARY 8 & 9, 2007

- Exhibits
- Reception
- Dinner
- Sessions

PAR*A*DICE

HOTEL & CASINO
21 Blackjack Blvd.
East Peoria, IL 61611

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
REGISTRATION PACKETS WILL BE MAILED IN NOVEMBER



Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association
303 Landmark Drive, Suite 1-A, Normal, IL 61761

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

Westcon Manufacturing Inc.
Lolly Garrec, Secretary/Treasurer
22 Bibber Parkway
Brunswick, ME 04011
Ph# 800-635-6729
Fax# 207-725-7566
Website - www.theamconveyors.com
Mixer-truck mounted conveyors



Big River Industries, Inc.

Producer of rotary kiln structural lightweight aggregate

Available in the following locations:

Utica, Illinois
South Chicago, Illinois
Bussen Quarries, St. Louis, Missouri

In Illinois: Mike Winter (630) 466-3748
In Memphis: Bryan Powers (901) 237-7468