I would like to wish everyone a busy, prosperous and enjoyable year in 2007. I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve IRMCA as president during 2006. Bruce, John, JoAnn, Jennifer, Marissa and everyone else who got involved made my job very easy. During the past year we held a very successful golf outing that "made" $10,000 for scholarships and then we followed that with a very successful and well attended short course. The Association is in a consistently healthy cash position that allows us to respond to special opportunities. We have informative and professional newsletters and we continue in a strong relationship with Randy Riley and ILACPA. We participated on an I-74 project success seminar and are anticipating our first pervious concrete technician courses will have been held by the time you receive this newsletter. We are getting more active on political issues and are looking forward to our "in-house" 2007 directory.

I would like to thank all of the board members for their guidance and advice throughout my term. I would like to thank outgoing board member Jon Vrabel for his service to the board and welcome new member Kyle Cain of Princeton Redi-Mix. Congratulations to Ken Highlander of Ready Mix Service on his election as president. With Bruce and Ken working together the Association is in good hands. Thanks also to the Great Lakes Cement Promotion Association for their support morally and financially. Finally thanks to all of the members for your continued support and participation in IRMCA events. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve this Association as president.

--Dennis Probst

Greetings. For those of you who did not attend the winter meeting I want to introduce myself. I am Ken Highlander, your president for 2007. Please don’t be nervous about this; Bruce and the rest of the staff are still in control. I am sure they will continue to do an excellent job. Hopefully, I will be able to assist them and the board of directors as we continue to fine tune the Association. I am excited to be your president for 2007, and encourage you to contact me with any suggestions or recommendations that would improve our Association. I hope you have a happy and prosperous year.

--Ken Highlander
Our condolences to the family and friends of...

...former IRMCA Executive Director Richard “Dick” Cosgrove. Dick was executive director of IRMCA from 1989 until the mid 90’s.

...IRMCA member Gerald “Jerry” Hodel, president of Roanoke Concrete Products. Jerry played a major role in the organization of the Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association and served as its third president in 1983.

...Frank Campanaro, district sales manager for St. Mary's Cement.

...Phyllis Reed, mother of IRMCA Director of Promotion John Reed.

Our congratulations to...

...Dan Stevens of Sika Corporation who has been promoted to the position of District Manager for its Construction Products Division - Admixtures.

...Justin and Annie Ozinga of Ozinga Illinois who welcomed their third daughter, Sydney.

...IRMCA Special Project Coordinator Jennifer Bedell and her husband Dan who welcomed their second daughter, Lilian.

Pictured left is Lilian Bedell.

Welcome, New Members

Affiliate

Interstate Insurance Brokerage
Mike Parr
3207 Mather Rd
Springfield, IL 62711
Ph. 217-793-6655
Fx. 217-793-6706
mikep@dimondbros.com

Associate

Inland Detroit Diesel
Jeff Thorpe
13015 W Custer Ave
Butler, WI 53007
Ph. 262-790-2878
Fx. 262-783-8981
jthorpe@inlanddda.com
Products & Services: Detroit Diesel engines, automatic transmissions, truck and chassis parts.
IRMCA Contracts with Randolph

The Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association has contracted with Jim Randolph of PBI Trucking to become a registered part-time lobbyist on behalf of the Association. Most of you realize that Jim has for many years been extremely active on the legislative front and has been IRMCA’s liaison in Springfield during that time. Jim has developed trusting relationships with several congressmen who are friends of our industry and is often invited to testify on issues affecting the concrete business.

As a lobbyist for IRMCA, Jim will continue to coordinate his efforts with others in our industry with whom we share similar goals, such as the Illinois Chapter of the ACPA and their lobbyists, the Midwest Truckers Association, the Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers and others. At the suggestion of many, IRMCA’s Executive Director, Bruce Grohne will also become a registered lobbyist, adding manpower when needed.

IRMCA will continue to bring its members legislative updates on a timely basis. We will continue to ask our members to contact legislators and encourage them to support our position on crucial issues. Even with an active part-time lobbyist like Jim, successful legislative activism relies on involvement of the entire Association. Watch your e-mails and faxes for updates! Meanwhile, read Jim’s report on page 4.

Board Member Changes

Board elections were held at the Annual Convention in January. Congratulations to Kyle Cain of Princeton Ready Mix who was elected to his first term and to Tim Huiner of Batavia Concrete and Dennis Oedewaldt of Prairie Materials who were reelected. And many thanks to outgoing board member Jon Vrabel who concluded his service on the board.

Call the IRMCA office at 1-800-235-4055 to discuss your interest in serving on a committee or the board of directors.

SOUTHERN STONE COMPANY
4800 N ST RT 37 * PO BOX 38
BUNCOMBE, ILLINOIS 62912
PEARL GIBBONS, SALES MANAGER

OFFICE: 618-995-2392
FAX: 618-995-2005
CELL: 573-382-0563

Plan To Attend These Upcoming Events

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

January 7-8, 2008
Short Course
Par*A*Dice Hotel
East Peoria, IL

Annual Convention
Naples Beach/Golf Resort
Naples, FL
There is enormous activity at the State Capitol with the 95th General Assembly. Now is the time to get your letters, faxes, emails, calls or visits to your legislators. Things are moving fast and it’s starting to look like there is much that will affect our businesses. On pages 4 and 5 is a list of bills introduced this session. You can go to www.ilga.gov, type the bill number, (such as HB 1105) in the search box on the home page and you can read the bill and check on its status, as well as identify the sponsors. Please review the list, and contact your legislators ASAP with your position on the bills.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT**

By Jim Randolph, Legislative Committee Chair

### Gross Sale Receipts Tax – OPPOSE

The governor is attempting to introduce this new tax thru the proposed budget. You by now have heard a lot about it. Under the plan manufacturers, retailers and wholesalers will pay 0.5% on their gross receipts and 1.8% will be paid on services. There will be an exemption for those businesses that do less than $1 million in gross receipts, but they will likely see increased costs from the products they purchase.

This is how it affects the ready mix industry: Incoming materials (pits, quarries, and other ingredients) will pay the 0.5% Gross Sales Receipt Tax (GSRT) on each of the materials we buy and of course pass it on to us. Add 0.5%. If we haul our own materials the GSRT will not apply, but if you have a hauler bring in your materials the GSRT for service (hauling) of 1.8% will apply. Add another 1.8%. When we manufacture the concrete and ticket it for delivery we add on the GSRT again. Add another 0.5%. Combined this easily adds $1 to $2 per cubic yard. You can see the pyramid effect this causes. Bordering states will not be required to assess the GSRT so the bordering Ready Mix Producers will have an advantage over Illinois-based producers.

There is debate whether this will generate $9-billion or more, which the Governor plans to use to fund Universal Healthcare among other things. This would be the largest tax hike in Illinois history! **Call or write your legislators now to OPPOSE the Gross Receipts Tax.**

### HB 1105 - OPPOSE

This is a bill that would grossly expand the prevailing wage act to aggregate haulers. This bill could also force manufacturers to meet prevailing wage requirements if the products they manufacture could end up on a public works project. This means the people at your plant!

### SB 268 - OPPOSE

This is a bill introduced to increase truck registration fees. It would place a 10% surcharge on registering a truck in Illinois and a 2.5% surcharge on the sale or lease of any 2006 model or earlier truck sold in Illinois, and a 1% surcharge on the sale or lease of an off road vehicle such as our loaders. These proceeds would fund the Illinois Diesel Emissions Reduction Act.
SB 1291

If you support more funding to the Motor Fuel Tax Fund and think these funds will not be raided for other interests and that you may benefit from this additional funding, you may want to support SB 1291. However, there are other things in this bill you may choose to oppose. SB 1291 would provide uniform 80,000-pound access in exchange for a $0.06 per gallon motor fuel tax increase. In addition, law enforcement would be given the authority to enter weigh facilities (i.e. elevators, quarries?), inspect scale tickets, and write overweight tickets retroactively for up to two weeks if a load had been brought in overweight. The 80,000-pound access is good, more money in the Motor Fuel Fund is good, but will the money be used for roads and bridges, how much will the $.06/gal tax will you get back in construction, and how many weigh fines will be imposed post delivered? You decide and contact your legislator.

HB 224

Producers in the following counties should be made aware of this bill. Members in Kendall, Boone, DeKalb, and Grundy counties need to look at this bill. They are proposing their own Motor Fuel Tax. The funds MAY be used for highway purposes, not shall or must.

HB 3661 - OPPOSE

It would require all 1993-1998 model trucks over 16,000 GVW registered in Illinois to have a Low NOx rebuild kit installed at the truck owner’s expense. Low NOx rebuild kits are estimated to cost between $300 and $2,300 per truck. Non-compliance will result in an out-of-service and a $1,000 fine!

HB 1113 & SB 1525 - SUPPORT

They would fully eliminate the CDF Commercial Distribution Fee which amounts to $400/truck.

SB 540 and HB 1786 - SUPPORT

Both passed out of committee recently and are on final passage stage in their respective chambers. The bills would eliminate Illinois’ split speed limit between cars and trucks on rural interstate highways.

HB 918

This may interest you in terms of getting 80,000-pound access to your plants. It passed out of committee recently. The bill would provide 80,000-pound access across the state.

There are three bills that bear watching in connection with the Illinois EPA. Having attended the IRMCA Environmental Committee Meeting in Bloomington recently, we offered these bills to the committee for review. We are reviewing the full impact that these bills will have on our industry. They are: SB 1422, SB 1242, and HB 1298.
Concrete Tech Degree

Full Tuition Scholarships Available

As many of you know, Alpena Community College in Alpena, Michigan, has for many years offered a two-year concrete technology degree. The college is also the home of the World Center for Concrete Technology. Now, because of a recently received $1.9 million grant, the school is seeking to expand programs and opportunities. The college is attempting to recruit 20 out-of-state students for enrollment in the program and to make it easier the college has decided to provide a limited number of full tuition scholarships to these out-of-state students on a first-come-first-served basis. If any of you know of someone who might have interest in this quality program, contact Don MacMaster, director, at 989-358-7344.

IRMCA Responds as Interest in Pervious Concrete Soars
Association Offers Pervious Concrete Contractor Technician Certification Course

A little background: Pervious concrete pavement is a cement-based product whose porous structure permits a free passage of water through the pavement into the soil without compromising the pavement’s durability or integrity. Although not a new technology (it was first used in 1852), pervious concrete is receiving renewed interest, partly because of federal clean water legislation. Pervious concrete pavement systems provide a valuable stormwater management tool under the requirements of the EPA Storm Water Phase II Final Rule which provides programs and practices to help control the amount of contaminants in our waterways.

Why the interest? The leaders in sustainability concerns in our country are now demanding that the construction industry immediately begin showing greater stewardship for the environment in which we all work and live. Organizations such as the United States Green Building Council now provide standards for “green building” which includes provisions that make pervious concrete attractive to responsible planners. Cities, universities, hospitals, federal and state governments are demanding “green building” and they know that pervious concrete has become an environmentally advantageous product of choice.

What is IRMCA doing? John Reed, IRMCA’s Director of Promotion has given over 25 presentations addressing pervious concrete and has several more lined up. If you, your sales staff or your customers have interest in pervious, feel free to contact John. At the request of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, IRMCA is now NRMCA’s sponsoring unit in Illinois with the responsibility of offering the NRMCA Pervious Concrete Contractor Technician Certification course. Times and locations of course offerings will be announced soon.

Below workers place and roll the very stiff pervious mix.
Transportation
Lobby Day
2007

Hundreds of transportation industry supporters gathered on the east steps of the State Capitol at 12:30 on Wednesday, March 14, for a lobby day rally designed to show policymakers how important transportation is to the state economy. Gatherers hoped to convince legislators to create Illinois jobs by properly funding the state's highway and bridge network as well as other aspects of transportation.

After the rally, attendees were encouraged to talk personally with key legislators about the importance of maintaining and improving the state's transportation network. Finishing the day, the Transportation for Illinois Coalition sponsored a Legislative Reception, again offering access to key legislators.

Lending our support to this cause which has been neglected for the last three years, Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association members and friends were prominent among the attendees. The need for a comprehensive transportation funding package and the revenues to support it is past due and without it Illinois will continue to lack needed job growth and economic competitiveness.

Voicing support for a capital spending bill are: (clockwise from top right) Doug Whitley, President of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce; Representative Dan Brady, 88th District, Bloomington, IL; Michael Carrigan, President of the Illinois AFL-CIO; hundreds of demonstrators participate in the lobby day rally.
Making concrete the pavement of choice and a critical solution to an owner’s problems has always involved reaching for and understanding new and better technology. Though you may not be aware of it, over the last three years the national concrete paving industry has been engaged in forming its own research institute. The result of this effort is the National Concrete Pavement Technology Center (NCPTC or CP Tech Center), which is dedicated to the development of technology and information to improve the quality and expand the use of concrete in assorted paving applications.

Many of you, particularly in the urban areas, have been following the development of pervious pavement technology and techniques, which has been a focus of the NCPTC as well. One of their reports is based on the freeze-thaw characteristics of pervious pavement placed at the Iowa State University campus in Ames, Iowa. Recognizing freeze-thaw durability as a potential obstacle to longterm use of the product in the Midwest, the report details some of the findings and strategies to ensure freeze-thaw durability and enhance the mixture properties. The report can be downloaded at www.ctre.iastate.edu/reports/mix_design_pervious.pdf. It is a good piece to have in your promotion handbag for promoting pervious pavement. And your director of marketing and promotion, John Reed, can provide further information.

There are also a number of other projects that apply to the higher level traffic market. These have to do with noise, friction, dowel bars, etc., but many of these are outside the typical market of streets and local roads pursued by most of the ready mix concrete industry (www.cptechcenter.org/projects/reports.cfm). However, one of the latest publications released in January 2007 should be of use and in the hands of every ready mix concrete producer in the state. This publication addresses a market all of us wish to move into; the concrete overlay market (see Figure 1).

This unassuming title, Guide to Concrete Overlay Solutions, is a first of its kind comprehensive look at all of the various concrete resurfacing and overlay solutions for almost any situation imaginable in the highway, city street and parking lot market. Its 28 pages of text and graphics aide the engineer and designers in understanding the application of different overlay strategies over concrete, asphalt and composite (asphalt over concrete) pavements. The Guide provides the essential information to the user to understand when one particular type of overlay might be favored over another.

Understanding how a concrete overlay is built and what the critical parameters are for each of the types of overlays is also essential for their successful use. In the Guide, general construction sequences are laid out with emphasis on those items that are more critical. For example, when should a

Figure 1: One of the many publications available from the National Concrete Pavement Technology Center (NCPTC or CP Tech Center).
IRMCA Interacts with IL-EPA

A few members of the IRMCA Environmental Committee met Thursday, March 8th, with representatives of the Permit Section, Bureau of Air, of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The purpose of the meeting was to address changes to AP-42 and how those changes would affect the IEPA Lifetime General Operating Permit under which most of our producer members function.

Applying the changes to AP-42, IEPA has calculated new maximum production numbers that will keep emissions below the 25 ton permit level. Those annual numbers are now 167,000 yards for transit plants and 291,000 yards for central mix plants. Even though lower than before, these new maximum yardage levels will not affect the vast majority of IRMCA members' plants. For those who might annually produce above these levels, the IPEA representatives have promised new tiers to the general permit so that all plants will be covered at one level or another. They are going to solicit our opinion as the new permit is written. We will keep you informed as changes come to us.

Important: When calculating your Annual Emission Inventory for 2006 (due 5/1/2007), base your calculations on the factors published in the air permit that your plant currently holds. Direction to do so comes straight from the Unit Manager of the IEPA Permit Section. If you so choose, you may also go online to do your calculations. The website is [www.epa.state.il.us/air/aer/calculate/concrete.html](http://www.epa.state.il.us/air/aer/calculate/concrete.html).

Please support the Associate Members of the Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association.

The IRMCA staff regrets any omissions from the above list.
The Indian Wells Resort in Indian Wells, California, was again the host of the IRMCA Annual Convention, this time January 18 – 20. The weather was a little cool but generally sunny and caused nothing to distract from the hotel’s magnificent views. Use of the swimming pool was negligible, but our golfers didn’t seem to miss a swing - or did they: hmm?

Festivities began with an evening reception on the 18th - compliments of our generous Reception Sponsors (right). On the 19th we listened with some degree of trepidation as Tina McIntyre, Marketing Manager for Riverside Cement, talked about the health and future of the cement industry in California as well as the history of her company. California seems to again be leading the country in mandating difficult emission controls. IRMCA Executive Director Bruce Grohne followed with updates on several ongoing projects. The last item on the agenda for the 19th was the Annual General Meeting at which officers and directors were elected for the 2007-2008 year.

On the 20th we heard Bernie Cawley, Executive Director of the Michigan Concrete Association, describe the activities and makeup of his association. MCA does a significant amount of certification training and has added over 60 contractors to their membership and, while many of MCA’s activities differ from IRMCA’s, we learned that many issues are the same everywhere. Bethany Walker, LEED AP, who was then Executive Director of the Rocky Mountain Cement Council (now with the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute) spoke to us about environmental issues in our industry and how concrete can be a “friend of the environment”.

Our convention concluded with a gala reception/dinner that included remarks from retiring President Dennis Probst and the passing of the gavel to new IRMCA President Ken Highlander. After adjournment we were treated to what we didn’t realize was a “goodbye” speech from Dave Anderson, formally with McNeilus Trucks. Many attendees adjourned to participate in the annual IRMCA Texas Hold’em Poker Tournament.
2007 Short Course

Again this year over 150 Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association members gathered in East Peoria to attend the annual Short Course. Attendees gathered for a welcoming function at 5:00 PM on Monday, January 8, that was sponsored by IRMCA members who each year choose to become Reception Sponsors (see list on page 10). Please thank these sponsors when you see them as their generosity allows us to keep our meeting costs as low as possible. During the reception members were able to visit a record number of exhibitor’s booths as well as spend time networking with fellow industry associates.

On Tuesday, learning sessions ran from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM with a short lunch break. In the morning, Dr. Ken Hover, P.E. used his unique entertaining style to review his last year’s talk on concrete basics and to address the issues of supplementary cementitious materials and reliable exterior flatwork. Following lunch, Jim Baty, Technical Director of the Concrete Tilt-Up Association outlined the growing tilt-up industry and the opportunities for yardage that tilt-up offers. He was followed by Matt Mueller, IDOT’s Engineer of Tests who addressed topical IDOT concerns including ASR issues.

Following a break Jon Hanson, National Resource Director for the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, talked about how local, state and national promotion groups can join for promotional efforts. The final speakers talked about biodiesel fuel and about how new emission laws are changing the motors that go into new ready mix trucks.

Immediately before adjourning, a drawing was held for a $500 Best Buy gift certificate. Herb Hustedde of Quad-County Ready Mix was the lucky winner, although son Kent was seen trying to cajole his dad out of the prize.
concrete overlay be bonded to the underlying layers and when should efforts be taken to eliminate or minimize bond? What type of preparation should be used? How do you deal with manholes, existing curb and gutter and elevation transition issues? All of these are questions answered as completely as possible to give the reader an understanding of the basic concepts so that what is learned can be put into practice. Design of concrete overlays is also addressed through pointing the reader to specific tools and techniques to generate the design thickness required.

The Guide is a good handout to any engineer, architect or potential owner for understanding how concrete overlays can be put to use for a particular project. Copies of the Guide are currently available either through IRMCA (800.235.455) or through the Illinois Chapter, Inc. – American Concrete Pavement Association (217.793.4933). Call and request yours today!

Randell C. Riley, P.E. is the Executive Director/Engineer for Illinois Chapter - ACPA, and a consultant to Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association. He is actively involved in the day-to-day promotion of long-life quality concrete pavements. He can be reached at 217-793-4933 or on the internet at pccman@ilacpa.com.