President’s Message
By Tim Huiner, IRMCA President

I returned yesterday from Las Vegas and the first E-mail I received was from Jennifer Bedell, our office manager, welcoming me home and letting me know I needed to get to work. I guess there is no rest for the weary.

I want to thank the board and our members for giving me the opportunity to serve as IRMCA president. I think if you are going to be in our industry you had better love a challenge, and I look forward to the new challenges that this position has to offer. We have a lot of fun events planned for this year, but we also have some important challenges to address. The one area in which I hope we can have great success this year is in our new contractor membership category. The staff has been hard at work doing their part, now it’s time for the rest of us to do ours. Please give any mailings you receive your full and prompt attention. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated and I think we will all benefit from this new membership category.

Another challenge we are facing is the hiring of a new field representative. This new position will help us increase our promotional abilities and give us the opportunity to offer our members expanded service. We are hoping one of our members will know of someone who might be able to fill this position. Please direct applicants to the IRMCA office-specifically to Bruce.

The only way to handle these and other challenges is with teamwork and our team is top notch. I would like to thank Bruce, Jennifer, Randy, Nikko, and Whitney for all of their hard work. They not only have the brains, talents, and abilities, but also enthusiasm and work ethic it takes to be a success in our industry. I encourage everyone to get to know our office staff and thank them personally for a job well done.

I would like to acknowledge our newest board member George Mobarak of Rock River Ready Mix in Dixon, Illinois. George’s talents and years of experience in the ready mix industry will serve our board well as we increase our membership and increase our promotional efforts in the coming year. I would also like to thank retiring board member Monte Bartels for his years of hard work and dedication to the Association. Monte’s commitment was instrumental in bringing stability and success back to IRMCA.

Another person I would like to thank is our outgoing president Dan Edwards. Dan has logged over sixteen years on the board and has served as our president twice. He has dedicated almost two decades to ensuring IRMCA’s success. I have learned a lot from Dan over the last few years and it’s comforting to know he will be on the board to help me again this year. I also want to recognize the rest of the board who are some of the most knowledgeable men I have had the pleasure of getting to know. I don’t believe there is any challenge that this group can’t handle.

The board and office staff is capable of doing a lot but they can’t do it all. I would like to encourage all our members to get involved with IRMCA. Serve on a committee, attend a meeting, promote concrete, get involved politically, or attend one of our events. Committees are forming right now, so let Bruce know if you or someone in your company would like to participate. Political involvement is also encouraged. This year IRMCA joined the Illinois Chamber of Commerce to be a part of the fight to keep federal dollars coming back to Illinois. You can take advantage of this money by making your local officials aware of the superior benefits and advantages of our product.

Finally, I would like to promise the membership that I will do my best to keep IRMCA pushing forward in the promotion of concrete. I am easy to reach and encourage everyone to call me if you have any questions or ideas. We are poised to do great things this year and with a little luck and God’s blessings, 2003 should be one of our finest years yet! How about promoting some concrete today!!
IRMCA Welcomes New Associate Members

Arkalite
Bryan Powers, Engineer
PO Box 1567
West Memphis, Arkansas 72303
870.735.7932
Products & Services: rotary kiln light-weight-aggregate

Bekaaert Corp
Nik Ljiljanic, Regional Manager
3251 W Barry Ave, Ste 1
Chicago, Illinois 60618
773.539.3819
Products & Services: steel fibers for concrete/shotcrete

C. Grantham Co
Don Cook, Vice President
PO Box 326
Columbia, Illinois 62236
800.251.8778
Products & Services: calcium chloride

Galena Road Gravel, Inc
Rich Lucas, General Manager
PO Box 50
Chillicothe, Illinois 61523
309.274.6388
Products & Services: sand & gravel

Truck Country
John Giles, Account Manager
10703 Highway 61 South
Dubuque, Iowa 52040
563.556.3773
Products & Services: truck sales, service, and leasing

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Farewell, Nikko

We are both pleased and slightly saddened to realize that as of May 10th we will be saying good-bye to our friend and colleague Nikko Santiago as she graduates from Illinois State University with a degree in Human Resources and moves back to her Chicago home. We are pleased because Nikko has achieved high level accomplishments and honors while at ISU and because we are positive that she will find successes in her future endeavors. We are slightly saddened, of course, because we will miss her!

Nikko began employment at IRMCA in September, 2000, the beginning of her sophomore year. She has worked at least 25 hours a week since then, maintained a full class schedule, been active in campus activities, and will graduate with a very high grade point average. We are proud of her and wish her much success and happiness.

If you have time, why not drop Nikko a note or call her and wish her well! She’s been a big part of any successes IRMCA may have enjoyed the last three years.

Nikko has achieved high level accomplishments and back to her Chicago home. We are pleaseed because saying good-bye to our friend and colleague Nikko

IRMCA Awards Nine Scholarships

Due to our members’ great, consistent support of the Harvey Hagge Scholarship Golf Outings and due to the kind generosity of Terry Murphy and the Meyer Material Company, the Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association was able to present 9 $1,000 2002-03 Harvey Hagge Scholarships to students representing 8 universities. All of the student winners are juniors, seniors or graduate students studying civil engineering, construction management or some other discipline related to the concrete industry. The applicants were interviewed and recipients selected by members of IRMCA Scholarship Committee. The 2002-03 recipients are:

- Patrick Shea, Bradley University
- Brian Walker, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville
- Matthew Vargo & Donald Kunder, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Megan Folkman, Illinois Institute of Technology
- Matthew D’Ambrosia, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Kelly Harman, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
- Ryan Kleiber, Illinois State University
- David Dodd, Middle Tennessee State University

IRMCA Welcomes New Contractor Members

Akira Builders, Inc
Paul Grunloh, President
PO Box 1225
Effingham, Illinois 62401
217.857.3109

Deichmueller Construction Co
Chuck Deichmueller, President
PO Box 312
LaSalle, Illinois 61310
815.224.2840

Guinzy Construction, Inc
V. Edward Guinzy, President
PO Box 360
Athley, Illinois 62808
618.485.2293

Imperial Concrete Construction
Bill Sade, Vice President
4101 Colleen Drive, Ste B
Champaign, Illinois 61822
217.352.1692

Martin Cement Co
Dennis Martin, President
25 Forestwood Drive
Romeoville, Illinois 60446
815.886.0400

Michael Concrete, Inc
Carl Michel, President
3101 Great Northern Road
Springfield, Illinois 62707

Runkle Concrete
Butch Runkle, President
3101 Great Northern Road
Springfield, Illinois 62707

Swederski Concrete Construction
Len Swederski, President
2807 Route 173, PO Box K
Richmond, Illinois 60071
815.678.4035

Van Der Laan Brothers, Inc
Jerald VanDerLaan, President
8105 W 189th Street
Mokena, Illinois 60448
708.349.4567

Contractor Membership

Our contractor membership is off to a great start (just view the list at right), but we have a long way to go. Let us know if you need additional application packets; we have plenty of extras. This is a fantastic opportunity for contractors, so it should be an easy sell. Many of your efforts has already resulted in new members-thank you!

Coming Events

April 2003
1 - Environmental/Safety Seminar, Springfield, IL
3 - Environmental/Safety Seminar, Desilft, Illinois
24 - Board Meeting, IRMCA Office
June 2003
13/14 - Summer Meeting, Galena, Illinois
September 2003
3 - Scholarship Golf Outing, Washington, Illinois
November 2003
20 - Board Meeting, IRMCA Office
The Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada was the site for IRMCA’s 2003 Annual Convention on February 2nd-3rd & 4th. Almost 120 members and guests gathered on Sunday night for a reception paid for by our generous Reception Sponsors (see list at right). On Monday, the morning was filled with IRMCA business—a board meeting, the annual general membership meeting, committee reports, and concluded with a “hands-on” demonstration of some of the rules and strategies of Las Vegas’s famous sporting games.

Following a reception and dinner Monday night, outgoing President Dan Edwards, Edwards Ready Mix, spoke briefly about IRMCA accomplishments during his presidency and thanked the board members, committee volunteers and association staff persons who helped make his year successful. Dan then introduced the newly elected president for 2003-2004, Tim Huiner of Batavia Concrete.

Tim followed Dan to the podium and introduced the newly reelected board members John Albinger, Mark Blager, and Lou Marcy (not present). He also introduced new director, George Mobarak, Rock River Ready Mix. Tim thanked the association for the confidence shown him and outlined some of his goals for his year. The evening activities concluded with Tim presenting the traditional gavel/plaque to outgoing President Edwards. Dan was also given a golf shirt that honored the fact that this was the second time he had served as IRMCA president.

At Tuesday morning’s business session, members heard a presentation from Scott Haislip, ACPA, on concrete streets, roads, and parking lots; Rich Warren, Southern Nevada Concrete and Aggregates Association on concrete promotion in the Las Vegas area; and Dave Vickers, Chairman of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association who reviewed the current status of NRMCA.

IRMCA adjourned its annual meeting at noon on Tuesday and members began to enjoy the many offerings of the World of Concrete which opened its doors Tuesday morning. Based on attendance and enthusiasm, the marrying of the IRMCA Convention to the World of Concrete seemed a big success.
IRMCA Hosts the American Public Works Association

The Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association hosted 29 members of the American Public Works Association Illinois Central Branch at the APWA January 15th meeting in Bloomington. Randy Riley, Engineering Consultant with IRMCA, presented a program on concrete overlays in Illinois. He not only discussed their history, but he also explained a program designed to ease engineering concerns when comparing concrete overlays with alternatives. Present at the meeting were representatives from the Peoria engineering office and they, Randy and Dick Plimpton, Prairie Group Concrete Engineer, shared their experiences during the recent whitetopping in Peoria.

On December 12, 2003, Jim Kolakowski, Technical Service Manager for the W. R. Grace Company led a Basics of Concrete seminar for employees of Centex Homes at their new headquarters in Elgin, Illinois. The seminar for over 50 was organized by Dan Garreffa of Illinois Cement and was sponsored by IRMCA. After covering the basics, Jim fielded questions about how to prevent problems with concrete and what to do if problems do occur. Questions were plentiful and both Dan and IRMCA’s Bruce Grohne joined in with answers and suggestions. Ideas were made about improving lines of communications between the workers on the job and the ready mix plant.

At the request of Gary Oremus, Quality Control with the Prairie Group, Fred Boskovich, account executive with Master Builders, presented a seminar on cold weather concrete to a group of representatives of north suburban engineering departments. The presentation was held in the new council chambers of the village of Vernon Hills. Fred addressed good, safe cold weather concrete practices and dispelled the many myths that surround winter pours. Also in attendance was IRMCA promoter Bruce Grohne who urged the villages to adopt specification standards that would result in the increased use of quality, durable concrete.

South Suburban Taskforce Shares Specification Manual With Suburban Building Officials

Suburban Building Officials met at the Terrace Restaurant in Lombard, IL on January 16th to hear a presentation from John Albinger of Vans Materials and other IRMCA members on durable, exterior flatwork ready mixed concrete. John explained how representatives from all aspects of the concrete industry came together in the south suburb area to develop specifications for ready-mix and its use that when adopted will result in not only a better product, but also in increased use of that product. Enthusiastic officials of several of the villages represented at the meeting asked for further information and requested that IRMCA arrange presentations for their staffs.

John Albinger explains the South Suburban Taskforce Specifications Manual.

IRMCA Sponsors Basics of Concrete Seminar

The seminar attracted over fifty participants. Pictured above is Jim Kolakowski, Technical Service Manager for W.R. Grace; he led the seminar.
These meetings will be April 1st in Springfield and April 3rd in DeKalb and we will team up with the IRMCA Environmental Committee to bring you a full day of valuable information.

Our committee has joined with the construction industry to develop a Concrete Jobsite Safety video and that project has been completed. The results of this work will be available for these meetings. It will be reviewed by and will be given (free of charge) to those that attend these meetings. We believe it will serve as a valuable tool for you to communicate safety to your people. Our other partner in this project was Rita Mosley and DCCA who gave hours of time and almost $30,000 for this project. It is something that we feel will benefit your company.

In addition, our current work with a Driver Training/Orientation Manual will be presented to you. It is also our hope that the finished product will be available at these meetings or shortly thereafter and that those that attend the presentation will receive the material. This project is one that we have taken on jointly with the Northern Illinois Ready Mix and Materials Association (NRMMA) and it is one that we have wanted to address for a number of years. The rough draft is prepared and it is being cleaned up for these meetings. We feel strongly this will be a tool that you can use for years to come. It will help to formalize and document the training that you do. It will help you to bring new people into your industry, familiarize them with your operation, introduce them to the product that you manufacture and set the stage for them to be valuable and productive employees. Safety is a big part of this emphasis, but it is really aimed at the total work environment in and around your business. It is hoped that it will be educational, but also add to the efficiency and productivity of your operation over time.

Our committee is excited about what we have to share with you and I think it goes without saying that the IRMCA Environmental Committee will bring value to your business as well as these meetings. We look forward to the opportunity we have to help you take advantage of your decision to be a Producer Member of the Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association.

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Bidco Fiber Reinforcement

Using Bidco Fiber Reinforcement for your next concrete job will:

- Reduce shrinkage cracks
- Increase compressive strength, flexural strength, and splitting tensile strength
- Create greater impact resistance
- Increase fatigue resilience
- Reduce permeability to moisture and chlorides.

NPC’s Bidco Fiber Reinforcement comes in a variety of styles to meet your specific needs:

- Fibrillated
- Monofilament
- Nylon
- Structural (NEW!)

Call one of our knowledgeable Customer Service Representatives today for more information on NPC Bidco Fiber!

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Safety Committee News
By Steve Metz, Safety Committee Cochair

Recently our committee had a decision to make and we want you to know about it. In the spring of the year the IRMCA Membership gets very busy getting ready for the ready mix season and that very fact complicated what we were considering. We were deciding whether or not we wanted to ask you to give us some of your valuable time in the form of regional meetings. Keeping in mind that our committee is made up of people much like yourself and understanding our responsibility to bring value to these meetings, we have decided to go forward.

These meetings will be April 1st in Springfield and April 3rd in DeKalb and we will team up with the IRMCA Environmental Committee to bring you a full day of valuable information.

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March IRMCA News - 9
Phoenix Airport Upgrades
Runways To Concrete

The officials at Sky Harbor Airport in Phoenix, Arizona were concerned enough about traffic congestion caused by construction that they placed a “sorry about our mess” announcement in the January 19, 2003 edition of the Arizona Republic. Why should that affect us here in Illinois? Why should we care, only a few of us actually fly into Phoenix very often? PLEASE READ THE ANNOUNCEMENT (below)! It’s not often that we see such a ringing endorsement of our product. For further information on this project, refer to www.pardonourdust.com or www.phxskyharbor.com. The project was also highlighted in a recent issue of Engineering News Record.

At Phoenix Sky Harbor, the Future is Concrete.

Every day over 1,600 planes take-off and land at the 5th busiest airport in the world. To help keep Sky Harbor’s runways reliable, we’re upgrading from asphalt to concrete. This will provide an enduring launch-pad and welcome mat for our community.

Now that’s a solid future.

We’re sorry for the inconvenience. In January and February:
- You may notice some temporary changes in runway operations.
- Please allow extra time for connections on either airline. Some Sky Harbor flights may be slightly delayed.
- Phoenix Sky Harbor’s runways will be closed at your usual travel times with notice to施工单位 and travelers.

The IRMCA Staff regrets any omissions from the above list.

IRMCA Holds Second Round Of Grant-funded Contractor Safety Training Seminars

OSHA’s extension of our Susan Harwood Grant allowed us to offer additional contractor safety training seminars this winter. The seminars were held in Collinsville on February 17, in DeKalb on February 19, and in Bloomington on February 21. Our efforts this winter reached over fifty contractors who will take the training and materials they received and utilize them within their companies’ safety programs, thus effecting countless others.

The training began with Electrical Safety, presented by Bob LoMastro, president of LoMastro & Associates. Other topics were Silica Awareness, Concrete Burns, PPE, and Hand Signals, presented jointly by George Macaluso, Associate Director of the Laborers’ Health & Safety Fund of North America, and John Condis, Safety Officer for the Midwest Laborers’ Health & Safety Fund.

In addition to the training, participants received PowerPoint presentations, student manuals, and a certificate.

At left, Bob LoMastro, President of LoMastro & Associates, guides a contractor through an electrical conduction experiment. LoMastro’s dynamic demonstrations made quite an impact.

John Condis (above), Safety Officer for the Midwest Laborers’ Health & Safety fund, presented information on Concrete Burns and PPE at the seminar in Bloomington. Presenting along with Condis was George Macaluso, Associate Director of the Laborers’ Health & Safety Fund of North America.

At right, one of the contractors in attendance at the DeKalb seminar participates in an electrical current demonstration. During his presentation on Electrical Safety, Bob LoMastro led the entire class through this demonstration, which involved allowing two fingers to become part of the electrical current’s path.

Pictured above are some of the twenty-five attendees of the Bloomington seminar. Seminars were also held in Collinsville and DeKalb.

At Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport
What's Equal?
By Randall C. Riley, P.E.

As long as engineers have been debating asphalt versus concrete, they have been wrestling with the issue of “What's Equal” in terms of pavement cross-sections. No where is this more important to IRMCA members than in the parking lot market for this is one of the single greatest opportunities for rapid return on your investment of time in promotion. However, rarely in this market do we get designs that are anywhere near close to being equal. Let's see if we can address that problem.

Most of what we know and use today in pavement design is based on the old AASHO Road Test. This road test, conducted in the late 1950s and early 60s was the basis of the AASHTO Guide for Design of Pavement Structures, a guide in use in many highway departments across the country today. Though detractors will say that it is based on old information and is no longer relevant, many of those detractors are asphalt guys that took a beating in the test results. We don’t really care what they think, do we?

The reality is that the AASHO (the “T” was added many years later) road test, to this day, still reflects the typical axle loads and pavement cross sections that we are likely to encounter in the local roads and parking lot market. The fact that the road test was conducted right here in Ottawa Illinois makes the results and the resulting performance forecast equations even more credible.

Asphalt pavements are designed using the AASHTO guide in a manner different from concrete pavements. Asphalt sections are designed using what is called a “structural number” that is analogous to concrete pavement depth, but accounts for the differences in strength in the layers. Structural coefficients are assigned to each layer. Typical values for Illinois if you do not know anything else are 0.40 for surface course, 0.30 for base course and 0.13 for granular layers. You can get more sophisticated than this in the analysis, but the differences are usually small for making a basic pavement comparison when you really don’t know what the asphalt producer would have actually provided anyway.

The structural number is calculated using the summation of the layer thicknesses multiplied by their respective layer coefficient is shown to the right.

Structural coefficients for concrete are not really part of the standard AASHTO design system. However, back in the 60s, shortly after the Road Test was complete, satellite studies in Louisiana proposed that deteriorated existing concrete pavement that is overlaid with asphalt should have structural coefficient of approximately 0.50, the oft cited value that you will see in some of the existing older concrete industry literature. Although this is a minimum value, the discussion is beyond this article, but I can mathematically demonstrate that the value ranges up to 0.74 new concrete typical of Illinois. In addition, the structural coefficient is in reality higher for thinner concrete sections and lower for thicker concrete sections. The value of 0.50 for concrete is a conservative value!

So, what is a realistic comparison? To solve that problem included in this issue is a nomograph (see opposite page) you can use to solve for the equivalent concrete pavement section for typical Illinois DOT Class P V concrete given an architect or engineer’s proposed asphalt pavement section. Simply compute the recommended structural number and follow through on the nomograph to determine the equivalent concrete pavement thickness that would result using the 1993 AASHTO Guide for Design of Pavement Structures. The startling fact is that you should find that ready mix concrete will be competitive in most cases even using more conservative concrete designs. In the case above is the minimum calculated section is four inches of concrete placed on compacted clay subgrade. Normally, you could use five inches, double the carrying capacity, sell more concrete and still be competitive!

One word of caution though when using the nomograph. Though the nomographs are technically accurate, and do produce equivalent sections, there is one area in virtually every parking lot that I would insist on you using a 6.5-inch minimum concrete section. That is in the fifteen feet or so leading up to the garbage dumpster where the garbage truck loads.

Front-loading garbage trucks in particular create an odd loading situation in a static condition. The front wheels behave as a fulcrum for a lever arm sections, there is one area in virtually every parking lot that I would insist on you using a 6.5-inch minimum concrete section. That is in the fifteen feet or so leading up to the garbage dumpster where the garbage truck loads.

Calculating the structural number for a proposed asphalt section.

Randell Riley is an Engineering Consultant for the Illinois Chapter – ACPA, Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association and the Great Lakes Cement Promotion 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@InsightBb.com.

Structural Number vs. Concrete Thickness
Mean 28-Day s’c = 750 psi

This nomograph allows you to determine the equivalent concrete section given a computed structural number for an existing asphalt section based on the 1993 AASHTO “Guide for Design of Pavement Structures” and is appropriate for use in automobile traffic loadings.
Highways Fully Funded At $31.8 Billion, $8.5 Billion Cut Averted

In an extraordinary victory for highway advocates, the conference report for the 2003 omnibus bill sets highway spending at $31.8 billion. Barring any last minute glitches, the bill will be passed by the House and Senate and signed by President Bush before President’s day. In February 2002, the fiscal year 2003 President’s Budget proposal recommended a 27% cut in highway spending - to $23.3 billion. Noting the $18 billion cash balance in the Highway Trust Fund, highway advocates in the House and Senate pulled together to demand a restoration of funding. A full restoration seemed nearly impossible, as House Appropriators voted only to fund highways at $27.7 billion, the budgetary baseline levels set for 2003 when the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21) was enacted in 1998. However, over the course of TEA 21 funding consistently rose higher than baseline levels due to an automatic revenue calculation that increased highway spending in line with increased Highway Trust Fund revenues. By 2002, funding reached $31.8 billion, $4.5 billion higher than projected only four years earlier.

Enactment of the omnibus bill completes a long and contentious process to set 2003 funding levels for most federal government programs. Last year, the House and Senate could not agree on a budget. Without a budget in place, the appropriations process was doomed to failure. Since October, a series of continuing resolutions were passed to keep the government operating at 2002 levels. Congress adjourned at the end of the calendar year without passing 11 of the 13 appropriations bills. Appropriators in the new 108th Congress decided to combine all eleven unfinished bills into a single omnibus bill that would finalize funding levels. The Senate agreed to set highway funding at $31.8 billion but many expected the House to demand the levels they agreed to in the 107th Congress, $27.7 billion. Many observers expected a compromise at levels in between. However, an intense lobbying effort convinced a majority of conferees to support the Senate-proposed funding level and an agreement was reached to fully restore highway funding.

This article was originally published in Volume 7, Issue 105 of The Rules Of The Road and is reprinted here with permission of the American Highway Users Alliance.
Environmental/Safety Workshops

View and take home the new Concrete Construction Safety video in which IRMCA played a major role—a great driver training tool.

Be among the first to view and use the new Drivers Training Manual which has been developed as a joint effort between IRMCA and NIRMMA. Take home a copy of the manual on a CD that will allow you to customize the manual for your company’s needs.

Ever wonder how a good safety program and record affects your insurance costs? Hear the surprising answers.

A must for all producers; plan now to attend! 4-1-03 in Springfield and 4-3-03 in DeKalb

Storm Water Permits expire May 31, 2003! Come and learn how to complete the form, provide all the information EPA requires, and have it in on time.

The new Air Emissions Report is due May 1, 2003. There are changes of which you must be aware. Bring your form and fill it out.

Spill Prevention Control & Countermeasures (SPCC)—is this EPA’s latest “hot button”? Learn what you should do to be in compliance.

Summer Meeting, June 13 & 14, 2003

Eagle Ridge Resort
Galena, Illinois

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