Notes From The Director

This month’s newsletter contains a touching tribute to a long time PCANY Member and supporter, Raymond J. O’Neil. The article was sent to me by Ray’s daughter, Rita, with whom I recently had a wonderful conversation. Rita is rightfully proud of her father’s accomplishments and we too are grateful for his contributions to the precast industry.

I recently had the pleasure of speaking at the ABCD Western NY Spring Seminar in Batavia on the subject of Accelerated Bridge Construction. This was a well attended event with a full day’s worth of interesting topics. There are many advantages to ABC and precast elements including sub-structures, super-structures, decking, safety barriers, sound walls, and even approach slabs are all being used to reduce closure times to weeks instead of months. As the use of these products become more and more commonplace, we are approaching the day when accelerated bridge construction will simply be called “bridge construction”.

All PCANY members are encouraged to attend our Spring 2015 meeting in Albany on April 23. We will have a full agenda with a host of topics affecting our industry. Prospective members and guests are always welcome. As always, please feel free to contact me at any time with questions, comments or concerns.

Warmest Regards,

Ronald E. Thornton, P.E.
In remembrance of my father, Raymond J. O’Neill, a loyal subscriber and enthusiastic reader of PCANY for over 20 years

Submitted by Rita O’Neill

Raymond J. O’Neill passed away June 15, 2014. He was the President and founder of Stable Concrete Structures, Inc. He was the inventor of numerous modular, pre-cast concrete structures used to stabilize and retain earth and to address the coastal erosion issues caused by storm surge and floodwaters.

Mr. O’Neill learned about the destructive forces of Nature and the incredible power of wind and water while serving aboard the USS Savo Island during Halsey’s Typhoon in December 1944. Describing the experience, my father said, “The waves were 100 feet above the ship, wind was measured at 150 miles per hour and the rain cut your face like a razor. The typhoon was terrifying, many lives were lost during the ordeal.”

The desire to protect shorelines from hurricane surges, to stabilize soil and to address erosion and scour became his lifelong passion. He invented and patented the STAPOD and T Wall interlocking precast concrete blocks.

STAPOD was used to build jetties on Fire Island and to protect historic Fort Fisher in North Carolina. Speaking about the STAPOD, the US Army Corps of Engineers recently stated that “...nine hurricanes have had no real effect on the pod. They have done their job.” The STAPOD was also used successfully for slope protection at the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority. Other inventions include the T Wall and the ARMORMAT. The ARMORMAT, a precast interlocking revetment system, was used to combat erosion along the Delaware River in Pennsville, NJ. And finally, the UWALL, a patented hybrid retaining wall system designed to handle any application in the field of civil engineering, is used extensively throughout New England.

His contributions, inventions and, most of all, his integrity will be remembered by the engineers that worked with my father throughout the years. For information on UWALL you can contact Mike Worden at mwordon@csigroup.com or contact Rita O’Neill at (201) 264-8344. For information on T-Wall, Armormat, or STAPOD, visit The Fort Miller Company at www.fortmiller.com.
Kew Gardens Interchange—Queens, NY

Submitted by Mike Kistner of Kistner Concrete Products

The Kew Gardens Interchange connecting the Grand Central Parkway, the Van Wyck Expressway, the Jackie Robinson Parkway, and the Union Turnpike has been described as “one of the most tangled knots of congestion in all of New York City.” According to NYSDOT, the estimated cost of this congestion, in time and fuel, add up to more than $8 billion per year. In order to untangle this mess, NYSDOT embarked on a massive $148M redevelopment project that included restructuring or replacing six overpasses. One of these overpasses is a 36’ span x 10’ rise x 51’ long precast arch structure. The arch elements are set on raised cast-in-place pedestal footings. The bridge is adorned with custom precast fascia and wingwall elements to match the overall architectural look of the project. This particular crossing is being completed in two phases, the first of which was completed in the fall of 2014 and the second is scheduled for this spring.

Buried precast structures such as arches and 3-sided frame units are ideally suited for phased construction.

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**Project Credits:**

Owner/Engineer: NYSDOT  
Precast Manufacturer: Kistner Concrete Products, Lockport, NY
Eastern NY ABCD to Hold Dinner Meeting...
On Thursday April 16 at Wolf’s 1-11 at 111 Wolf Road, Albany. The topic for the meeting’s presentation will be “Superstructure and Partial Foundation Replacement—Canadian Pacific Railway Bridge over Maxon Road.”  (See article)

New York State Parking Association Spring Training
A full day of presentations will be held on April 21 at Traditions at the Glen located at 4101 Watson Blvd Johnson City, NY. (Registration)

Cornell Local Roads Program Announces Spring Workshops
Stormwater Management, Surveying, and Powers and Duties of Local Highway Officials to name a few. (See article)

Spring PCANY/DOT Meetings Scheduled
Please note that both meetings (PCANY Membership and Joint DOT) will be held at the AGC office 10 Airline Drive Albany. Meetings will be held on April 23 and will include election of officers for 2015-2016.

Contact Us
Give us a call for more information about our services and products
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