Notes From The Director

After keeping the federal Highway Trust Fund on life support for nearly a decade, the House of Representatives has miraculously passed a six-year transportation bill. Forgive me, however, if I don’t pop the champagne cork right away. First, the six-year bill is only funded for three years (only in Washington can this be classified as logic). Second, there are no significant increases over current funding, which means that our infrastructure needs will continue to be woefully unmet.

I was pleased to attend the NPCA 50th Annual Convention in Minneapolis in October. This event marked the end of my term serving on the Utility Products Committee and I am proud of the many accomplishments that, along with my colleagues, we were able to achieve. Beginning with The Precast Show in March of 2016 I will be returning to the Technical Committee which I previously served on for 5 years.

Don’t forget our PCANY membership meeting on Thursday, November 19 at the Day’s Inn Albany Airport in Latham followed by our afternoon meeting with NYSDOT at their offices at 50 Wolf Rd. We look forward to welcoming three new members to our association: Long Island Precast, Easi-Set Worldwide, and Helix Micro-Rebar.

Warmest Regards,

Ronald E. Thornton, P.E.
Elk Drive (Tower Avenue Bridge)—Ticonderoga, NY

Submitted by Jim Willis of LHV Precast, Inc

This structurally deficient bridge, which crosses the LaChute River in Essex County, was replaced in 2014 with a 90’ Span Precast Bebo Arch structure having a projected 75 year life span. The new structure provides bicycle and ADA compliant pedestrian access and was designed to fit the historical character of the area.

Precast elements were selected for this project in order to minimize traffic disruption and to meet the architectural and aesthetic goals of the project.

Precast arch elements can be produced with large spans and reasonably low profiles to meet a variety of applications. Parapet and wing walls may be precast or cast-in-place. And, as a buried structure, a precast arch bridge has the advantage of reduced maintenance through the elimination of pavement joints.

Project Credits:
Owner: New York State Department of Transportation
Design Engineer: Greenman-Pederson, Inc.
Specialty Precast Engineer: Contech Engineering Solutions
Precast Manufacturer: LHV Precast, Inc. Kingston, NY
Contractor: Reale Construction, Ticonderoga, NY
Precast Industry Focus on Lifter Safety

One of the things that differentiates precast from cast-in-place is that precast products have to be lifted and set into place. A wise precaster once stated “there is not one product that we make that will not kill you if it falls on you”. Safety is paramount in any construction activity and there is an entire industry devoted to products specifically designed for the lifting and handling of precast concrete elements.

OSHA requires that anchors cast into concrete products have a minimum safety factor of 4:1. Reusable devices such as ring clutches, hooks, clevises, etc. must have a minimum safety factor of 5:1. The purpose of any embedded lift anchor is to transfer the load from the concrete to the device. Therefore, the capacity of the anchor is only realized if it is properly installed with sufficient edge distance, the concrete has reached adequate strength, and proper rigging has been employed.

Precasters work closely with lifting device manufacturers and specialty engineering professionals to design the safest and most effective lifting system for their products. Factors to consider include weight, member thickness, center-of-gravity, concrete strength (at stripping and at installation), and whether the product has to be rotated at any time for storage, shipping, or erection.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of our Producer Members with questions about lifting. You may also find Associate Members specializing in lifting devices in the PCANY Buyer’s Guide located on our website.
PCANY Welcomes New Members

Long Island Precast of Brookhaven, NY has joined us as a Producer Member. Long Island Precast produces a variety of utility structures, modular buildings, retaining walls, and noise barrier walls. Contact Mike Verruto, Jr at mikejr@li-precast.com or visit www.li-precast.com.

Helix Micro-Rebar of Ann Arbor, MI is a new Associate Member. Helix produces a code approved high strength steel fiber for concrete reinforcing. Contact Wes Dees at wes.dees@helixsteel.com or visit www.helixsteel.com.

Easi-Set Worldwide of Midland, VA has joined us as an Associate Member. Easi-Set is a licensor of J-J Hooks, Easi-Set buildings and other products. Contact Moffette Tharpe at mtharpe@easiset.com or visit www.easiset.com.

PCI 2016 Convention & National Bridge Conference

Registration is now open for the PCI Convention March 1-5, 2016 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, TN (Information).

PCANY/DOT Fall Meeting

Thursday, November 19. Members will meet at the Days Inn in Latham at 9AM. The PCANY/NYSDOT joint meeting will start at 1:30PM at DOT headquarters 50 Wolf Rd, Albany.