Notes From The Director

The summer of 2015 is coming to a rapid conclusion as we prepare for a busy fall schedule. I will be doing a presentation on Precast Concrete Utility Structures at the 2015 Southern Tier PDH Symposium in Binghamton on October 21. The following day I will head to Minneapolis for the NPCA Annual Convention. I am also preparing for our PCANY/NYSDOT fall meeting in November where there will be several important issues on the table for both meetings.

This month’s issue presents two more great projects that illustrate the wide versatility of precast concrete. Our industry has a lot to be proud of with new and innovative uses of precast occurring every day. Please feel free to submit project profiles to me at any time and I will be sure to include them in an upcoming issue.

Finally, September is a time that we reflect on the tragedy of 9/11/2001 and give our sincere thanks to all first responders and military personnel who selflessly work to keep us safe.

Warmest Regards,

Ronald E. Thornton, P.E.
Erie County Fairgrounds—Hamburg, NY

Submitted by Gina Lathan, of Lakelands Concrete Products, Inc

The Erie County Fairgrounds, which has been hosting their annual fair for 174 years with rides, agricultural exhibits, and food frenzies, is undergoing several capital improvements including widening of the food court, enhancing walkways & railings, and improved landscaping. Stone Strong® precast modular block (PMB) retaining walls were incorporated throughout the project in order to optimize land use and provide an aesthetic accent to the landscape. PMB units are quite versatile in the fact that they can be used in a variety of applications from planters and walkways to parking lots. The larger size blocks allow for taller gravity walls without the need for geogrid, even when subject to live load surcharge. Dual face blocks provide an attractive parapet onto which fencing and pedestrian handrails can be readily attached.

Project Credits:
Owner: Erie County, NY
Contractor: Serafini (General Contractor)
Precast Manufacturer: Lakelands Concrete Products, Lima, NY
Retaining Wall System: Stone Strong Systems, Lincoln, NE
Nassau County 1st Police Precinct—Baldwin, NY (Long Island)

Submitted by David Wan, P.E. of Oldcastle Building Systems

Nassau County approved the construction of a new three-story, 25,000 square-foot police facility in the wake of health and safety concerns associated with the current structure and a consolidation of some of its precincts. The interior of this $13 Million structure was built with precast columns, inverted TEE beams, and 10” thick hollow-core plank on 33’ centers providing an open floor plan with maximum design flexibility for the architect. Precast stair units and elevator walls were also used for interior construction.

The building exterior consists of 12” thick (4” interior wythe + 2 1/2”EPS + 5 1/2” exterior structural wythe) precast insulated wall panels. The combination of brick and stone facing on the exterior panels create an architectural finish that is befitting of this county’s heroes in blue.

Project Credits:
Owner/Engineer: Nassau County, NY
Structural Engineer/Architect: LiRo Architects + Planners, New York, NY
Precast Engineer: DeVita & Associates, Inc. Greenville, SC
Contractor: VRD Contracting, Inc, Holbrook, NY
Precast Manufacturer: Oldcastle Building Systems, Selkirk, NY
Insulated Wall Panel Manufacturer: Coreslab Structures
ACI-CNY—Cement Plant Tour
ACI Members are invited to attend a tour of Lehigh Cement in Glens Falls on Wednesday October 14. Lunch is included and registration deadline is 10/8/15 (Information)

ABCD-WNY Announces Fall Bridge Conference.
ABCD is currently seeking presenters for its 27th Annual Bridge Conference to be held at the Millennium Airport Hotel in Buffalo on Friday, November 13. (Information)

ASTM C27 Committee meeting.
ASTM C27 Committee on Precast Concrete Products will meet during ASTM Committee Week on December 9 at the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel, Tampa, FL (Information)

NPCA Annual Convention.
The National Precast Concrete Association’s 50th Annual Convention will be held October 21-24, 2015 at the Marriott City Center in Minneapolis, MN. (Information)

PCANY/DOT Fall Meeting Scheduled.
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.