Notes From The Director

We apologize if you have had any issues accessing our website or emailing our office over the last week or so. Unfortunately, we had some issues with the server that hosts our website forcing us to move to another provider. We still have some work to do but I am happy to report that our site is up and running and that I am able to send & receive emails from precast@pcany.org.

This month features a unique solution to a common problem for wing wall installation and a state-of-the-art precast facility in Minnesota that was built with the help of a proud PCANY Associate Member.

Warmest Regards,

Ronald E. Thornton, P.E.
Youngstown-Wilson Road Bridge — Youngstown, NY

Submitted by Michael Kistner of Kistner Concrete Products.

This replacement structure included eleven (11) sections of 28' arch elements weighing 22 tons each with detached headwalls. Wing walls on one end were constructed with typical “Anchor Style” elements. However, overhead wires on the opposite end prohibited the use of a crane to set this type of wall. Temporarily relocating the wires would have resulted in an unacceptable delay in the completion of the project. To resolve this issue, lighter weight modular blocks were used to construct the opposite end wing walls using an excavator to set. This simple but innovative approach resulted in significant savings to the owner in both time and cost.

Project Credits:
Owner: Niagara County DPW
Contractor: Mark Cerrone, Niagara Falls, NY
Engineer-of-Record: C & S Engineers
Precast Manufacturer: Kistner Concrete Products, Lockport, NY
Precast Specialty Engineer: ECO Span—Arch Systems
Precast Concrete Production Goes High-Tech

Submitted by Ted Coons of Spillman Company.

Molin Concrete Products of Ramsey, MN recently upgraded its entire manufacturing facility with state-of-the-art automation making it one of the most efficient concrete producers in the USA. The process, developed in Germany, is known as a carousel system and is used extensively in parts of Europe. Specialized pallets move panels from one production station to another, with each station performing a specific process including forming, casting, consolidation & screeding, finishing, de-molding, and curing.

The Molin plant has a 80’ x 300’ main production area with 18 pallets currently installed and can process 2—3 pallets per hour. Each pallet can hold a maximum panel size of 12’ x 38’ x 12” thick and can handle a weight of 27.5 ton.

The design, manufacture, and installation of the carousel system was provided by Weckenmann Anlagen Technik GmbH & Co. of Dormettingen, Germany and their North American representative, Spillman Company of Columbus, OH.

Spillman Company is an Associate Member of PCANY. Check out our members in the PCANY Buyer’s Guide located on our website.

Panel dimensions and embed locations are downloaded from a CAD file to the automated plotter and transferred directly on to a clean pallet. Here, workers place rebar inside the shuttering molds.

Once a pallet has reached initial set in the curing chamber, it is raised to a mezzanine. Using a belt pack, one employee is then able to control the automated helicopter trowel that replaces several finishers needed in a traditional facility.

A single employee controls the concrete pouring bucket using an automated belt pack. In a traditional plant, this is a highly labor-intensive process requiring an entire crew to complete.
GPI Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. wins 2015 Bridge Award

An award for the replacement of the Elk Drive Bridge over the Lachute River in Essex County was announced at the ABCD Eastern, NY annual meeting on June 17, 2016. This bridge was featured in the November 2015 issue of the PCANY Newsletter.

Press-Seal Named 2016 Conexus Indiana Winner

(Fort Wayne, Ind. – June 7, 2016) Conexus Indiana, the state’s advanced manufacturing and logistics (AML) initiative, has honored Press-Seal Corporation with a 2016 Conexus Indiana Touchstone Award, recognizing the company’s extraordinary hands-on contributions to preparing students for advanced manufacturing and logistics careers. (Information)

NPCA Annual Convention

The 51st Annual Convention will be held September 28—October 1, 2016 at the Renaissance Austin Hotel in Austin, TX. (Information)