Notes From The Director

This month, instead of highlighting many of the outstanding uses of precast, we decided to sit down with one of our outstanding producers to give you a glimpse of their operation, their history, and extraordinary steps they take to ensure that quality precast products are available for our infrastructure needs. Binghamton Precast, like many of our members, is a second and third generation family owned business that has grown through hard work and innovation.

We look forward to profiling more of our members over the coming months.

Warmest Regards,

Ronald E. Thornton, P.E.
Producer Profile—Binghamton Precast & Supply Corp

Interview with Jay Abbey, President and CEO of Binghamton Precast & Supply Corp

Jay Abbey is the 3rd generation owner of Binghamton Precast with three plants located on the north side of Binghamton, NY. We recently sat down with Jay to tell us about his company and get his perspective on the industry and the benefits of being a member of PCANY.

Q. Can you provide us with a brief history of your company?

A. Binghamton Precast & Supply Corp. sprung out of our family business, Binghamton Burial Vault Company Inc. which has been in operation since 1937. Our foray into precast started in the late seventies, shortly after I graduated from Broome Community College, with septic tanks and related products and slowly moved into manholes and catch basins. We built our main plant on 15 acres in the Village of Port Dickinson in 1985 which, at the time, seemed like more room than we could possibly ever need. However, we continued to outgrow this facility over the years and in 2005 we purchased the assets of Concrete Precast Products on Thomas Street in Binghamton. This purchase put our company into the Precast Sound Wall market. In 2007 we built a new plant on the Thomas Street site with larger cranes and product handling equipment. With this plant we have been able to enter into other markets including Arches, Barrier and Bridge Deck Slabs.

Today, we are nearing completion of a third manufacturing plant to improve our capacity to continue with all the same products that we have been making as well as enter into new products.

Q. How would you describe your current market?

A. Our primary market is the heavy highway and commercial construction industries. Our product line includes a full range of both below-ground and above-ground infrastructure products including manholes, drainage structures, utility vaults, box culverts, and span units. We also produce sound walls, retaining walls, traffic barrier and many custom designed elements. Geographically, we deliver our products to all points in New York State and Northern Pennsylvania.
Q. What are some initiatives that your company takes to ensure the quality of products and services for your customers?

A. We are highly focused on both quality control and quality assurance in all of our operations. As such we have maintained NPCA certification for over 25 years. Our QA team must be experts on the various specifications and requirements for NYSDOT, NPCA and other project specific specifications. Our ACI certified technicians are charged with ensuring that all the required inspections and processes take place correctly and that everyone doing these jobs are properly trained. Binghamton Precast is also a PennDOT Bulletin 15 listed supplier of precast products.

Q. How does your company benefit from being a member of PCANY?

A. PCANY provides a conduit for direct dialog between precast producers as a group and NYSDOT Materials Bureau and Structures Division. Many issues have been resolved through this dialog over the years yet several remain and we look forward to continuing this relationship.

Binghamton Precast & Supply Corp is a Producer Members of PCANY. Check out all of our members in the PCANY Buyer’s Guide located on our website.
Silica Exposure Safety Videos
NPCA and the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute, have jointly published the Exposure Control Plan for Respirable Crystalline Silica, which outlines the steps precasters need to take to protect employees and ensure compliance with the new, more stringent OSHA rule on airborne crystalline silica.

Exterior Manhole Coatings—Are They Necessary?
NPCA has published a must-read article for engineers who specify exterior coatings for underground precast products. These costly measures, except in extreme conditions, generally add little value to an already watertight product. (Article)

NPCA Annual Convention
The 52nd Annual Convention of the National Precast Concrete Association will be held October 12—14, 2017 in Atlanta, GA. Visit precast.org/meetings/annual-convention for information and registration.