



Hard Facts

N e w s l e t t e r

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President's Letter



Steve Rodgers
PCAV President

The PCAV mission states our organization is dedicated to the growth of the precast industry. We educate specifiers and end users about advantages and

proper utilization of products and systems and represent the industry in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Since we formed in 1992 as a nonprofit Virginia corporation, we have been very successful in meeting our founders' vision. This success has come through the diligent efforts of our members contributing their talents and time to provide promotional materials and educational seminars on specifications standards. This allows our PCAV members to be in contact with contractors, government officials and specifiers to provide assistance.

The precast industry continues to change through new products and better technology. Yet there is a continued threat to our markets from innovative new materials. We must constantly try to anticipate and recognize where our industry's growth and development needs are. PCAV is tirelessly adapting our programs to meet these challenges.

Flashing back to the late '60s when precast products first started in Virginia, cast-in-place (brick or block)

Continued on page 3

Precast Endcaps Get Bigger in Maryland

When general contractor Gray & Son selected **Frederick Precast Concrete** to create precast endwalls for the Roberts Mill Run housing development project in Taneytown, Md., Greg Ouimette knew it would be a big job. And he was confident his team could do it, even though it meant setting 160,000 pounds of solid concrete in less than an hour.

"The process of casting these huge endwalls was pretty intense," said Ouimette. "We made the hole formers for the pipes in our fab shop and put them together with the forms in our shop. Then we had to perform several inspections before we could even begin to pour. It was one of the most detailed processes I've ever seen."

And the details didn't stop there. Four buckets were used—one on each endwall—to pour the concrete simultaneously to prevent it from setting on one end before the other end was done. "It took us about four hours to pour, and during that time we were monitoring the quality of the concrete

to make sure it wasn't setting too quickly," Ouimette said.

The forms were stripped the next day but it was another two weeks before they were completely ready to be delivered. Lowboy trailers were



Frederick Precast helped create the biggest endcaps in Maryland.

used to transport the giant endwalls, which were about the size of a bus. Care was taken to remove the

Continued on page 3

Table of Contents

Message from the President	1
Frederick Precast Project	1
PCAV Happenings	2
Board of Directors	2
Membership News.....	2
Concrete Frisbee Contest	3
Annual Meeting.....	4
2004 Calendar of Events	4

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PCAV Happenings

Spring weather has set in across the Commonwealth, and the construction season has responded accordingly. PCAV members are entering their busiest time of the year. Given that fact, one would think that member involvement in the affairs of the association would take a hiatus. It turns out that just the opposite is true!

The challenges facing our industry both internally and externally continue on just the same, and in many ways these challenges increase during the high construction periods. I am happy to report that PCAV is effectively responding to these issues on a number of fronts.

PCAV continues to work with representatives of the Virginia Department of Transportation on areas of common interest. Those issues primarily deal with VDOT's QC/QA program allowing precast producers to participate in VDOT work. VDOT's recent "decentralization" efforts are creating greater efficiencies at the district level but also create potentially inconsistent requirements around the state. One example is the requirement by one or two districts to show the product production date on each delivery ticket. PCAV maintains that this information is already indicated on the actual product, and replicating it on the ticket is administratively burdensome. But after numerous discussions on this matter, PCAV has agreed to abide by this redundant requirement where it may be required.

PCAV also is working closely with VDOT to develop a comprehensive Repair Procedures Manual. PCAV members are currently seeking before and after photographs in order to assist in this effort. Finally, PCAV has requested a meeting with senior VDOT representatives in order to discuss the



Mark Singer
PCAV Exec. Director

Department's current procedure for addressing QA/QC program violations.

The Association's Education Committee continues to receive rave reviews from participants attending the numerous Technical Concrete Seminars being offered around the state. Special thanks to Ann Couwenhoven (Hydro Conduit/Rinker Materials), Patrick Rodgers (Contractors Precast Corp.) and Carissa Alexander (Hanson Pipe & Products) for organizing and presenting these programs for specifiers, local government officials and contractors. It is worth noting that these programs are offered at no charge to participants. PCAV is absorbing all costs associated with these valuable educational offerings.

Producer members should have also recently received the annual PCAV Cement Usage Survey. Producers are encouraged to promptly and accurately complete these surveys, which will be used as the financial foundation of PCAV's request for funding from the Northeast Cement Shippers Association later on this year. All responses are sent to, and

Continued on page 3

Membership News

John Dobbs has replaced **Keith Colonna** as president of **Bayshore**, according to **Joe Rose**. John comes from Hamilton Form in Texas and is a registered P.E. in eight states.

Jon L. Gilden is the new Mid-Atlantic region sales representative for the manufactured concrete products industry at **Kaufman Products**. Jon will also represent the company at PCAV.

Kaufman Products is now featuring a movie of HiCap patching mortars being used, along with photographs, on its website www.kaufmanproducts.net. The movie was filmed at Americast Ashland. "Of course, we had to damage the concrete for the movie because they never require patching in that," said **Alex Kaufman**.

President's Letter

Continued from page 1

structures were the standard. Today PCAV estimates that approximately 95 percent of sanitary and storm structures in our state are precast concrete. Yet, most of the municipalities and state standards are still built-in-place designs.

Many of the problems that producers see on construction projects are associated too often with misunderstandings between built-in-place designs and the proper utilization of our precast designs. In the beginning there was a concerted effort between precasters to educate engineering firms, municipalities and the contractors on how to design and install precast products.

Since a large number of old-timers have recently retired and there are now many new faces in all positions, one of the immediate challenges for PCAV is to double its efforts to provide important training on precast products not found anywhere else. The education committee has been very active this year giving seminars throughout the state to engineers, municipalities and VDOT. With two more seminars scheduled for this fall more participation is needed by all to bring everyone up to speed on what is going on with our products. Also, we need VDOT and the municipalities to update their specifications and standards to represent precast products.

There are many other challenges facing our industry, and our association. Although we're number one in our industry, we can't afford to sit back, relax and rely on our past performances. On March 24, 2004 the executive committee dedicated itself to developing a new strategic plan for the future of PCAV based on the founding members' vision for our organization.

As spring signals the arrival of sunshine, warm weather and flowers blooming, the PCAV is revitalizing its efforts and meeting the new challenges in educating specifiers and end users on the proper utilization of precast products and systems. We encourage you to help us in this effort.

May all of you enjoy the springtime and have a wonderful year.

—Steve Rodgers

Learning the Fun Way

The West Virginia University (WVU) American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Student Chapter and the WVU Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering hosted the 2004 Virginia's Regional Conference April 1-3, 2004.

PCAV sent Carissa Alexander (Hanson Pipe & Products Inc.) to help judge the Concrete Frisbee competition.

In this contest students had to design and construct a concrete Frisbee to be 8"-12" round and 1"-2" thick. The primary composite had to be Portland cement and they could use nonmetallic reinforcement mesh. The competition was divided into three scoring opportunities: aesthetics, and



Bluefield State team celebrates their win.

accuracy and distance in throwing.

In this event, there were four participating schools: Bluefield State, VMI, WVU and Fairmont. Bluefield State was the overall Frisbee Competition winner.

Throughout the day, participating colleges and universities had various contests and events to choose from. In addition to the standard concrete

canoe, surveying, technical problem solving and steel bridge competitions, there were several of out-of-the-ordinary competitions. Besides the concrete Frisbee design-and-throw competition there was also an egg-drop competition and the "Civil Engineering Jeopardy" contest, where students could choose topics such as Hydraulics/Hydrology, Geotechnical, Environ-

mental or Famous Engineers. The most popular event was the Popsicle Stick Bridge competition.

Frederick Precast

Continued from page 1

endwalls from the trailers using pre-engineered lift points. It took less than an hour to install them on site.

"It was truly amazing," said Ouimette.

John Wiley, superintendent of utilities with project contractors Gray & Son in Butler, Md, said, "I believe these are the biggest endwalls in the state of Maryland, so it was pretty cool that we were able to make and install them without any problem." He said when he specified the job, he knew precast was the right solution. "It was just a matter of finding someone who could cast such large endwalls in one piece."

Frederick Precast Concrete was able to do it without a hitch.

PCAV's Happenings

Continued from page 2

compiled by, an independent CPA firm and remain completely anonymous.

Finally, PCAV's 2004 Membership Directories have been printed and distributed to the membership. Extra copies are available at no charge by contacting the PCAV office. One piece of errata in the Directory needs fixing. The Calendar of Events (page four) shows an incorrect location for the October 17-19 Virginia Transportation Conference. The correct location should be the Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, Virginia.

PCAV wishes all of our members an active construction season, and a wonderful summer.

—Mark Singer, Executive Director

2004 Calendar of Events

MONTH	EVENT/LOCATION
March 11-12	Virginia Concrete Conference Richmond, Va.
March 24	PCAV/VDOT, Board of Dir'tors Dinner w/Associates Norfolk, Va.
March 25-26	VTRBA/VDOT Contractor/ Engineer Spring Conference Norfolk, Va.
May 12-14	APWA Regional Conference Norfolk, Va.
July 22	PCAV Brd & Committee Mtngs PCAV/VDOT Luncheon Meeting Northern Va.
September 15-16	PCAV ANNUAL CONVENTION Wintergreen, Va.
September 21-23	Virginia Engineers Conference Williamsburg, Va.
October 17-19	VDOT Transportation Conference Roanoke, Va.
October 22-25	NPCA Conference Rancho Mirage, Ca.

Political Analyst Larry Sabato to Speak

PCAV's Annual Convention will again be held at Wintergreen, September 15-16. This is one event that members hate to miss.

You'll be treated to interesting meetings and speakers, time for fun and relaxation, and terrific networking opportunities.

Keynoting this year's conference is Dr. Larry Sabato. The *Washington Post* called him "the Mark McGwire of political analysts." As founder and director of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics, Dr. Sabato bridges the gap between the ivory tower and

the real world on issues of critical importance to American democracy and the challenges facing our political process. His comments are sure to be lively, entertaining and on target. Dr. Sabato regularly updates *Sabato's Crystal Ball*, a critically acclaimed election analysis website which predicted results for the 2002 midterm elections, and looks ahead to the 2004 scene. He is the author of over 20 books and countless essays on the American political process.

We'll send you more information soon!

—Marie Derby

PCAV Mission

The Precast Concrete Association of Virginia is dedicated to the growth of the precast concrete industry. We will educate specifiers and end users as to the advantages and proper utilization of products and systems, and we will represent the industry in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PCAV Past Presidents

Bill Tichacek, Americast	1991-1993
Jim Richmond, CP&P	1993-1995
Kirby O'Malley, Hydro Conduit	1995-1996
Don Anger, CP&P	1996-1997
Richard Rotondo, Rotondo Precast	1997-1999
Scott Crumpler, Americast	1999-2001
Mimi Rainero Coles, Permatile	2001-2003

Check out the PCAV website!
<http://www.gopcav.com>

Hard Facts is a publication of the Precast Concrete Association of Virginia for its members. Submissions, story ideas, member kudos, letters to the editor and comments are welcomed. Contact the editor, Lois Carter Fay, at 800.203.8660 or lcf@marketingideashop.com.

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