

PITTSBURGH
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CHAPTER



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**American Concrete Institute
Pittsburgh Area Chapter**

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December 2015



Wishing You the Happiest of Holidays!

from Everyone at
ACI Pittsburgh Area Chapter



Chapter News



President's Message

By Andy Lawrence



Recently, several chapter board members attended the ACI Fall Convention in Denver, Colorado. While it was a great opportunity to catch up with colleagues and sit in on technical committees covering all aspects of concrete, it also provided a chance to visit with representatives from local chapters across the United States and internationally. A common theme that came up through conversations with others was involvement in ACI locally and nationally, and the growth of local chapters.

Growth of and involvement in ACI and local chapters can take on many forms. As you read this newsletter, you will see this year the Pittsburgh Chapter has expanded our awards program to include an Excellence in Concrete Project Award. As members of the Pittsburgh Chapter, please forward the award notice on to friends in the industry that may not be part of the chapter. This is a fantastic opportunity to recognize a "concrete" project in the Pittsburgh Chapter Area, small or large, and to open some doors to participation for new members that may not be aware of our chapter.

Also in this newsletter you will see that in January 2016, the Pittsburgh Chapter will host an ACI Technical Seminar on the "Repair of Concrete Bridges, Parking Decks, and Other Transportation Structures." Although this is not the first ACI Technical Seminar held in the Pittsburgh Area, it is the first where our chapter is responsible for registration, promotion and organization. We intend to host two to three seminars per year at a significant reduction in cost over the nationally sponsored seminars. Our intent is that offering more technical seminars will help grow awareness in our chapter and expand opportunities for concrete education and knowledge. Again, please make others aware of this opportunity provided by our chapter.

Finally, at the root of our chapter is our membership and the involvement of the members in chapter activities. As our daily lives become more and more hectic balancing family, career and other responsibilities, it becomes more difficult to find the spare time to give to an organization such as ACI. Please remember, participation can take on many forms such as being on the board of directors, helping proctor at certification sessions, attending dinner meetings, submitting a project for the project award, or simply recruiting new members. As always, the board of directors is open to new ideas to better our chapter, so please feel free to forward any thoughts you have to any one of us. This is our chapter, all 272 of us, and it is up to us to see that the chapter continues to grow and progress!

Andrew Lawrence
President



Seminar Offered

Repair of Concrete Bridges, Parking Decks, and Other Transportation Structures

The Pittsburgh Area Chapter of ACI will be hosting a seminar, "Repair of Concrete Bridges, Parking Decks, and Other Transportation Structures", on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 from 8:00 am until 5:00 p.m. The seminar is being held at the Pine Community Center in Wexford, PA. Topics covering evaluation of deterioration of bridges and superstructures, repair materials and methods of bridges and superstructures, strengthening of existing bridges, protection methods, and maintenance techniques for reducing bridge deterioration will be presented by Myles (Tony) Murray, PE, FACI and Michael Sprinkel, PE, FACI, two established industry experts on repairing concrete structures. The Pittsburgh Chapter is offering this seminar for a very low price of \$200.00. In addition to the technical presentation, as part of the seminar attendees will receive free seminar handouts, which include ACI publications and instructor notes, breakfast, lunch and coffee breaks – over a \$300 value! Continuing Education Units (0.75 CEUs/7.5 PDHs) will be provided by ACI National following confirmation of attendance. Please visit www.acipgh.com to download a registration form or to register online.

Founders Award

The ACI Pittsburgh Area Chapter established the Founders Award Fund in 1988 for undergraduate students, including seniors, who have an interest in the areas of cement technology, or concrete technology, design or construction. The student should be studying Civil or Materials Engineering/Technology, or Architecture/Architectural Engineering.

The awards are offered in the amount of
\$3,000, \$2,000 and \$2,000.

At this time, we are accepting applications for the 2015/2016 academic year. The student is required to submit: an ACI application, a letter of transmittal, an official copy of their transcript of grades; and two letters of recommendation. **Applications must be received by January 31, 2016.**

If you would like to obtain an application form or have any questions, log onto www.acipgh.com, then click on 'Scholarships and Awards.'

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Chapter News is published by the American Concrete Institute, Pittsburgh Area Chapter for the purpose of informing members and others about issues of concern to the concrete industry. If you have information to include in this publication or any comments, contact ACI Pittsburgh Chapter at 724-452-1468

Pittsburgh Area Chapter Member Meetings

2016

January 6th

February 3rd

March 2nd



Andy Fertal – Founder; ACI Pittsburgh Chapter

In 1962, three pillars of the Pittsburgh concrete industry – Andy Fertal of Master Builders, Art Livingood of Dravo Corporation, and Bob Zern, a consulting engineer – founded the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Concrete Institute.

On September 18, 2015, we lost Andy Fertal, the last surviving founder of our chapter.

Andy was a first generation American, the son of immigrant parents from Czechoslovakia, and grew up in Weirton, West Virginia. He attended Carnegie Tech in Pittsburgh, where he earned a civil engineering degree. Andy worked his way through college as a weekend musician with his band and as a caddie at Williams Country Club in Weirton.

After graduating from Carnegie Tech, he joined Master Builders. He left Master Builders for military service, where he served as a “Seabee,” utilizing his civil engineering and concrete background on various military construction projects overseas. Upon completion of his military service, Andy joined a major ready-mix concrete firm in New Jersey where he managed concrete plants and was responsible for mix design and quality control.

At home, Andy married Eda Coletti and they were married for over 50 years. They raised four children; Andy, David, Judith, and Susan; David and Andy are still involved in the construction industry. Around 1960, Andy was recruited again by Master Builders to manage their Pittsburgh Branch. After successfully growing the Pittsburgh Branch, he was promoted to Eastern Regional Manager. There he continued to contribute to the growth of Master Builders personnel, their products, and the use of quality concrete throughout the region.

After 42 years with Master Builders, Andy retired, but didn't stay away long from the industry he LOVED! He formed a concrete products

manufacturing representative business, A.T. Fertal Associates, where he was active until he fully retired. Andy had a motto for his business that appropriately described him, the other two ACI Pittsburgh Chapter founders, and undoubtedly today's members of the Pittsburgh Area Chapter; that motto was “WE LOVE CONCRETE.”

Following is a summary of Andy's involvement with ACI:

- In 1962, Andy helped found the Pittsburgh Chapter with Art and Bob. He served on the Board of Directors multiple times over the early years, and provided secretarial services through Master Builders. He also recruited many members for the chapter, five of whom were elected President of the Chapter.
- Andy served as President for the 1967-1968 year
- In 1981, Andy assisted with the chapter's Concrete Durability Study in conjunction with the City of Pittsburgh.
- In 1984, Andy worked with Art Livingood to start the ACI Certification Program
- Andy received Life Membership of the Pittsburgh Area Chapter with John Valent and Tink Bryan in 1993.
- In 2001, Andy was the third recipient of the Tink Bryan Award.

Andy's other contributions to the industry included:

- Serving on many technical committees, including PACA and PennDOT
- Assisting in the formation of the Western Pennsylvania Concrete Promotional Council
- Holding education seminars and schools for architects, engineers, concrete suppliers, and contractors
- Andy received many awards and recognitions while with Master Builders, among them the prestigious Martin Marietta Corporation “Jefferson Award.”

THANK YOU ANDY!





“Progress Through Knowledge”



ACI – PITTSBURGH AREA CHAPTER FALL-2015/SPRING-2016 CERTIFICATION SCHEDULE

Concrete Field Tech – Grade I	Location
February 8-9, 2016	New Enterprise Stone & Lime – Roaring Spring, PA
March 7-8, 2016	Stone & Company – Greensburg, PA
Concrete Strength & Aggregate Testing Tech	Location
March 2016	Bryans Research Lab
Concrete Flatwork Finisher/Tech	Location
February 2016	To Be Determined

To download a registration form or to register on-line log onto: www.acipgh.com

Remember: Credit Card payments are now accepted with our on-line registration feature (www.acipgh.com)

COMMON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT COURSES PROVIDED BY THE PITTSBURGH AREA CHAPTER OF THE ACI

Where and when are ACI Certification classes held?

Our classes are mainly administered October through March. We try to hold the classes in different locations to accommodate our geographical jurisdiction.

What is the difference in recertifying vs. becoming certified for the first time?

From a testing standpoint there is no difference. Whether you are obtaining your certification for the first time vs. renewing your certification you still must take both the written and performance exams. The only difference would be if you would choose not to attend the review portion of the course (Day 1). However, most people choose to partake in the review because of the changes that may have been implemented since your initial certification.

What is the itinerary for the two-day Grade I course?

Day 1: (includes continental breakfast) • Classroom review for the written test in the morning then break for lunch. • Hands-on training utilizing the actual equipment used for testing in the afternoon.

Day 2: • Written exam administered at 7:00 am. • Performance exams are performed thereafter at 8:30, 9:30, 11:00 or 12:30. Individuals are scheduled for these time slots as registration forms are received.

Is PENNDOT (NECEPT) and ACI Certification the same thing?

NO. When working for PennDOT, concrete technicians are required to maintain the PennDOT (aka NECEPT) certification. This certification can be obtained from NECEPT at www.superpave.psu.edu. You must have a current ACI technician certification PRIOR to registering for the NECEPT class and testing. Once the NECEPT certification is obtained, the ACI certification is no longer required to maintain NECEPT certification. However, if your NECEPT certification lapses for any reason, current ACI certification will be required once again to take the NECEPT certification class and recertify with NECEPT. An important thing to note: PennDOT is the only body recognizing NECEPT certification. ACI certification is still required by ASTM standards for technicians testing concrete on non-PennDOT projects.



1st Annual Excellence in Concrete Project Award

The Officers of the Pittsburgh Area Chapter of ACI are pleased to announce the first annual Excellence in Concrete Project Award. This award was established to recognize excellence in structural and architectural design; unique and innovative construction or application; and sustainable uses of concrete in construction projects in Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio, and Northwest West Virginia.

Nominations will be accepted from any person(s) or firm(s) involved in a project utilizing Portland cement concrete as a significant portion of the project.

- Project can utilize any type of Portland cement concrete construction technique including tilt-up, pre-cast, and cast-in-place.
- Project can utilize any type of Portland cement concrete product including shotcrete, self-consolidating concrete, roller compacted concrete, etc.
- Projects can be new construction, restoration, or repair.
- All projects must have been completed during the time period from January 31, 2014 - January 31, 2016. Projects in phases are eligible at the completion of each phase, as well as at the time of completion of the overall project.

Deadline for entries: February 29, 2016.

Visit our website (acipgh.com), send email to bethaci@verizon.net, or contact the Chapter Office at 724- 452-1468 for an entry form.



TINK BRYAN AWARD ~ TRIBUTE TO: THOMAS "TINK" BRYAN

The Tink Bryan Award was created in honor of an outstanding individual who dedicated himself to his family, business and the concrete industry. For several years now, the Chapter has honored one individual each year with this award. The Pittsburgh Chapter Board of Directors is requesting nominations for the 2016 recipient. If a candidate is selected, they will be announced at the Awards Banquet in April. The candidate should demonstrate an exceptional commitment and achievement of service to the concrete industry.

Please forward a letter with your candidate(s) name and reasons for nomination to:

ACI, Pittsburgh Area Chapter
PO Box 86
Zelienople, PA 16063
or email to: bethaci@verizon.net