

PITTSBURGH
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CHAPTER



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**American Concrete Institute
Pittsburgh Area Chapter**

P.O. Box 86
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February 2022

Chapter News

2022 PITTSBURGH AREA CHAPTER UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

MEMBER DINNER MEETING - Wed. - March 9, 2022

Domenico's Restaurant, Piazza Plaza, 20550 Route 19, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

AWARDS BANQUET - Friday, April 22, 2022

Please join us for this year's **Awards Banquet at the Beaver Station Cultural & Event Center**, located in the charming and historic town of Beaver, Pennsylvania. It is a restored vintage Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad passenger station dating to 1897.

GOLF OUTING - Wed. - July 25, 2022

Quicksilver Golf Club

- ADDITIONAL CLASS ADDED TO THE SPRNG 2022 CERTIFICATION SCHEDULE -

Concrete Flatwork Technician and Flatwork Finisher

March 12th in Clarion, PA

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

Concrete In the Steel City



Chapter News

Improving Constructability

By Cary S. Kopczynski, ACI President

Reprint of 1/3/2022 President's Memo, courtesy of ACI and Concrete International



The Second Law of Thermodynamics holds that there is a tendency for any isolated natural system to degenerate into increasing disorder, or entropy. This physical law is thought to apply throughout the universe and is not subject to human intervention. A similar phenomenon seems to occur with human life in general. It tends toward complexity unless we continually confront it. Have you ever postponed something, thinking that “next year things will be simpler, and I’ll have more free time”? When next year comes, your to-do list has grown, and your life has become more complicated. Instead of having more free time, you have less! The good news is that if we DO continually confront complexity, we can do battle with entropy and bring more order to our lives and organizations.

This principle holds true in the concrete industry. Buildings and other structures are growing steadily more elaborate and more complicated. For some structures, this complexity is unavoidable: it’s due to the inherent nature of the architectural design, or to site constraints or other factors. For other structures, however, the added complication is unnecessary. Nevertheless, it’s important that designers, builders, and other stakeholders in the design and construction process recognize and confront this trend.

ACI is embarking on a new initiative to address productivity challenges. Simply put, constructability involves incorporating construction knowledge into the design process to improve construction productivity. When architects and engineers acquire a working knowledge of construction and then collaborate with the contractor and subcontractors during design, magic happens. Construction schedules shorten and costs drop, with no compromise in quality. In fact, quality arguably increases when designs are simplified and made more constructable. Complicated and intricate designs are more difficult to build and hence increase the likelihood of construction errors. Conversely, designs that are simplified and made more constructable, by coordinating their systems, layout, and detailing with the contractor, are less likely to result in construction mistakes. Simplicity is golden.

To assist structural designers in learning the ins and outs of constructability, ACI is pursuing the goal of offering a certificate training program on this very topic. This new program will include training modules that will provide designers with a working knowledge of formwork, reinforcing bar detailing, specifying concrete, differences in the way designs should be approached as a function of project delivery type, and many more subjects. Guiding the content in the preparation of each of these new educational sessions will be the objective of improving the constructability of structural design and, in the process, the collaboration between designers and builders. This new program will become available later this year. When it does, I encourage you to consider it if you’re involved in structural design in any way. You’ll emerge from the training with a working knowledge of construction and a better understanding of contractors’ needs. It will improve your daily design decisions and, in the process, move construction productivity in a positive direction.

It’s easy to make things difficult. It’s difficult to make them easy. But the effort is worth it because simplicity is golden. And in a nutshell, that’s the essence of constructability—making designs as simple and straightforward as possible, consistent with meeting other design objectives.

Read the full article here: [Improving Constructability \(concrete.org\)](https://www.concrete.org/publications/Articles/ImprovingConstructability.aspx).



President's Message

By Tricia G. Ladely



Happy 2022 to everyone! I hope you, your families, and your businesses are looking forward to a new year.

The Board has been meeting regularly and continues to focus on supporting our key programs of ACI certifications, ACI student chapters and monthly dinner meetings with guest speakers. There are two new efforts that may be of interest to you. A Board task group has been reviewing our financial records to ensure we are stewarding the Chapter resources in a responsible manner. If you are interested in serving on this task group, please let us know. The other endeavor is sponsorship of a pilot program called "Engineering is Everywhere" to introduce science and engineering to young students. Read more about this program in the following pages.

Aligned with our mission to "teach, train, gather, and share information" we are planning a panel presentation for the March 9, 2022, dinner meeting to support young professionals in our community. Please identify and invite a young professional or student to join you for that event. The panel will highlight networking and career experiences but will also include time for questions and open discussion.

Thank you for continuing to support our local Chapter through memberships, dinner meetings, certification sessions and the countless ways you contribute to the concrete industry in your region! Please do not hesitate to contact us if there are new ways that we can serve our region.

Best regards,

Tricia G. Ladely

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2021 ~ 2022

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Ryan Pendeville - Golden Triangle Construction

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

*A Warm Welcome & Thank You
to Our Newest Chapter Members!*

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Robert Slobodnik ~ RDS Excavating & Concrete

Craig Bloom ~ FirstEnergy

Sharon Merckle ~ Monaloh Basin Engineers

*The Pittsburgh Area Chapter continues to grow because of
support from all of our members!*

7th Annual Excellence in Concrete Project Award

If you wish to submit an entry to be considered for this award, please visit our website www.acipgh.com to download the application form.

Reminder:

The deadline for project entries is February 28, 2022.



Engineering Is Everywhere



The Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Concrete Institute is accepting applications for a pilot program using the Engineering is Everywhere curriculum to introduce 4th through 6th graders to engineering. Engineering is Everywhere is an evidence-based training for upper-elementary teachers who want to teach their students about what engineering is, what engineers do, and how the math and science they learn in school is used by engineers.

The selected schools for the pilot program will receive the full curriculum, which includes:

- Three video lessons to present to the classroom
- Online training for elementary educators to facilitate lesson planning and class discussion
- A kit that supplies the materials used to teach the hands-on activities, which can be used year after year

After completion of the curriculum, ACI-Pittsburgh asks that the educator participate in a 1 hour teleconference to provide feedback on the curriculum and its implementation.

Interested educators may apply by contacting Brian Lucarelli at Lucarelli.ACI@gmail.com. Please provide the educator's name, contact information (email or phone), grade level, and school name.

Additional information regarding the Engineering Is Everywhere curriculum can be found at www.engineeringiseverywhere.com. Specific questions regarding the ACI Pittsburgh pilot program should be directed to Brian Lucarelli at the email listed above.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TRIBUTE TO: THOMAS "TINK" BRYAN

The Lifetime Achievement Award (formerly known as the Tink Bryan Award) was created in honor of an outstanding individual who had dedicated himself to his family, business, and the concrete industry. For several years now, the Chapter has honored various individuals with this award. The Pittsburgh Chapter Board of Directors is requesting nominations for a 2022 recipient. If a candidate is selected, they will be announced at the Awards Banquet in April. The candidate should demonstrate exceptional commitment and achievement of outstanding service to the concrete industry, and, throughout their professional career, has persistently made significant contributions in areas such as leadership, quality, or education in support of concrete promotion and industry advancement.

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@zoominternet.net

To be accepted for board review, nominations should be received by March 15th.

Past Award Recipients:

2016 – Chuck Niederriter
2014 – Mark Patton
2012 – Robert Lawrence
2008 – Russell Smith, Sr.
2007 – John Thrower, Sr.

2006 – Robert A. Prisby
2005 – David Chilcote, Sr.
2004 – Bernard Erlin
2003 – Joe Homitsky, Sr.
2002 – Paul Rader

2001 – Andy Fertal
2000 – George Wargo
1999 – Wayne Miller