

# President's Message

As we roll into mid-2008, the economy continues to slow throughout the nation. However, New York City continues to forge ahead, just like the Concrete Industry Board is doing.

It has been over two years since the last Bulletin, but that does not mean we have been asleep at the wheel. Au contraire. In the last nine months, the CIB has had two very successful morning seminars, another excellent awards dinner highlighting the best projects of 2007 and the continuation of our luncheon education presentations. Many of our board members provided their expertise and knowledge on several of committees for the new New York City Building Code, which took effect on July 1.

The articles in this Bulletin emphasize the true crux of the industry—QUALITY CONCRETE—as we move forward, I want to thank the authors of

the articles in this Bulletin, as they are contributing to the rapidly changing concrete world.

- Joseph Ferrara, Esq., Ferrara Bros Building Materials, and Carmine Valente of Jenna Concrete Corp.

- Cas Bognacki, PE of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

- Bill Phelan, FACI, of The Euclid Chemical Company

- Mike Mota, PE, of Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute and Carmine Attanasio of the New York City Concrete Promotional Council

- Paul Brooks of Holcim, (US) Inc. Items the Concrete Industry Board are currently working on include:

1. Sending out a RFP (Request for Proposal) for auditing the Quality Control operations of the New York City Concrete Producers for conformance to the CIB Concrete Producers Certification Program.

2. Applying for tax-exempt status in New York State.

3. Preparing for the 2008 annual Roger H. Corbetta Awards Program and the 2009 President's Ball to be held on May 8, 2009.

To our members and friends of the Concrete Industry Board, I would like to thank you for your support in attendance at our luncheons, dinners, seminars and outings, advertising in our Bulletin, Awards Dinner Journal and President's Ball Journal and participation on panels and committees.

As always, if there are questions, resolutions and above all comments, feel free to contact me. I ask myself every day, "What have I done for the industry today?"

Feel free to borrow my line.

Have a great summer.

**William (Bill) J. Lyons III, FACI**  
*President*

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# From the Editor

## Managing Change

Change is a constant in our lives. How we manage it determines how successful we are. We are going through some significant changes in the concrete industry, locally and globally.

First and foremost, changes in the NYC Building Code are redefining responsibilities for producing concrete and developing concrete mix proportions. The concrete producer can now provide mix proportions and should perform QC testing at the batch plant, not the purchaser. The concrete producer now has the option of providing concrete mix proportions based on their field data or developing mixes in the laboratory, in accordance with ACI-318, using the actual materials in use at their plant.

These are more rational methods for developing mixes than the minimum cement factors commonly used with the old code. The minimum cement factor mix designs produced compressive strength results in the range of 6 to 9 PSI per pound of cement in the mix.

Today we are using mix designs that utilize the cementitious material much more efficiently, and produce compressive strengths as high as 20 PSI per pound of cementitious material, and cement is a small fraction of the cementitious content.

This development is very significant because of the worldwide attention to green house gases, and we will not be allowed to ignore the fact that the production of every ton of cement produces a ton of carbon dioxide.

The concrete industry may be required to reduce its carbon footprint. This can be accomplished by substituting fly ash, slag cement and natural pozzolans for cement. The use of cement can be further reduced with the proper use of admixtures and aggregates.

The concrete producers must develop this expertise on how best to use these materials and stay current with the changing concrete technology. It is very timely that the concrete producers, with the CIB, have developed a quality control certification program for operating concrete batch plants. If this program is adopted, it will be the best in the industry. It establishes a process that will allow the concrete producers to be better able to meet these changes and others that lie ahead.

— *Cas Bognacki*

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