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Three PCI Regional Affiliates Become Chapters

New affiliation level represents closer collaboration in dissemination of PCI “Body of Knowledge”

CHICAGO, Ill. – PCI has signed Chapter affiliation agreements with PCI Midwest (formerly Midwest Precast Association), PCI of Illinois & Wisconsin, and Precast/Prestressed Concrete Manufacturers Association of California Inc. (PCMAC). Chapter status is PCI’s highest-tier affiliation, and requires supermajority endorsement by Producer Members in the area. The three associations had previously been PCI affiliates at the Partner level.

“It’s great to see these three outstanding organizations move up to PCI Chapter status,” says James G. Toscas, P.E., PCI president. “It further solidifies our network of national and regional resources for education and information to advance precast concrete structures.”

Organized for service

PCI has twelve nationally coordinated yet regionally focused affiliates across the United States that provide resources to PCI members, educators, and the design community.

Regional representatives are able to provide information, conduct continuing education, facilitate meetings, and assist with specific projects, often in person. Together with PCI, they provide reliable and responsive points of contact in virtually every area of the country, drawing on PCI's immense body of knowledge for the precast concrete structures industry.

PCI Chapters

PCI Chapters represent a unified membership commitment, in that each Producer Member of a Chapter is a PCI Producer Member, and conversely each PCI Producer Member in a Chapter's territory is a Chapter member. All producers belonging to a PCI Chapter, just like all Producer Members of PCI, are PCI Certified. PCI Certification represents the highest commitment to quality available in the precast concrete structures industry.

"Another big benefit of becoming a PCI Chapter," notes Mike Johnsrud, executive director of PCI Midwest, "is that it will facilitate our regional branding efforts and provide greater clarity in the marketplace. We will be able to work more closely with the national institute to get consistent and accurate information to our audience and our customers. And it will allow us, collectively, to have a more comprehensive and cohesive image in the marketplace."

"What we do and what other regions do might be somewhat different," Johnsrud continues, "but the reality is that we're all in it together. We're not in it for one company or one group. We're in it for the industry."

Marty McIntyre, CAE, executive director for PCI of Illinois & Wisconsin, agrees. "We sought PCI Chapter status because we wanted to be fully represented in our national institute to help it better reflect the needs of our local customers and our local industry."

The reciprocal membership between our organization and PCI will make sure that our regional organization truly reflects the precast concrete structures industry.”

Decisions still made locally

Chapter status does not necessarily change how a regional organization operates, according to Douglas M. Mooradian, A.I.A., executive director of PCMAC. “As a Chapter, we still look at PCI in the same way—as a national resource with the same goals and objectives that we have. One of the questions we had in deciding to go for Chapter status was, who would be directing my time and who would be making decisions for our regional association? Those decisions will still be made by our PCMAC Board.”

“Chapter status also provides us a more equal distribution of the cost of our services among all the producers in California,” Mooradian added. “Our specific needs and methods of operating may vary from PCI and from other regions, but our overall goal is certainly the same as those of PCI in terms of growing the industry.”

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PCI Midwest, headquartered in Bloomington, Minn., serves Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Formerly the Midwest Precast Association, the organization was first incorporated in 2003. Its current chairman is John Rivisto of Wells Concrete Products Co. Visit www.midwestprecast.org.

PCMAC (Precast/Prestressed Concrete Manufacturers Association of California Inc.), headquartered in Glendale, Calif., serves California. The organization was first incorporated in 1958. Its current president is Robert Clark of Clark Pacific. Visit www.precastconcrete.org.

PCI of Illinois & Wisconsin was first incorporated in 1980. The organization's marketing office is headquartered in Oak Park, Ill., with a public works office in Springfield, Ill. Its current chairman is Christian R. Newkirk of Prestress Engineering Corp. Visit www.pci-iw.org.

About PCI

The Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI), founded in 1954, is the foremost developer of standards and methods for designing, fabricating, and constructing precast concrete structures. PCI also operates the world's leading certification program for firms and individuals in the precast concrete structures industry.

The Institute maintains the primary body of knowledge for precast concrete structures in the U.S. It publishes a variety of periodicals, technical manuals, reports, and other informational documents, including an award-winning technical journal. It also conducts educational seminars, technical conferences, conventions, exhibitions, and awards programs.

PCI members include firms comprising the precast concrete structures industry as well as architects, consultants, contractors, developers, educators, engineers, materials suppliers, service providers, and students.

PCI has 12 regional affiliates across the United States, and maintains active relationships with other organizations, national and worldwide, that have interest in precast concrete structures and related technologies. Visit www.pci.org.