

*Tom McEvoy*

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

# PCI had much to show *at convention*

I'm flying back from the 2009 PCI Convention and Exhibition in San Antonio, Tex., tired but happy about the innovation and energy that I saw over the past week. There was a full schedule of committee reports, educational programs, and meetings to discuss how we can strengthen and promote our technical position in the industry. Here is a sampling from convention:

- We had a phantom premiere of our new video of the blast tests at Tyndall Air Force Base. We did not have permission to show the video yet, so we showed an approved photo while playing the audio portion. It still made a great impression about the superior blast performance of precast concrete.
- The Sustainability Council will soon have the report on phase 1 of the precast concrete life-cycle assessment, and will immediately begin phase 2, which will determine the impact of our products over the life of a structure. This information will give us factual, third-party data, which will help us develop plans to promote our strengths and address areas that need improvement.
- The Sustainability Council and Quality Activities Council have teamed up to develop a green plant-certification program, which will be launched in the first quarter of 2010. This will be one vehicle for PCI plants to reduce their environmental impact and distinguish themselves from other precast concrete producers.
- The work to analyze the data from the San Diego, Calif., shake-table tests is still on schedule. This information not only will demonstrate that precast concrete buildings perform well in all seismic conditions but will give us the proof we need to influence building codes.
- The PCI Foundation gave college scholarships to two high-school seniors and saw impressive presentations from the five universities that have Precast Design Studios. The next generation of architects and engineers from these schools not only will be experts in the design of precast concrete but will probably have the experience to influence precast concrete product innovation in the future. The foundation also ran another successful fundraiser raffle to support more of these programs. We thank all of the donors who made this happen.

As good as I feel about these results, I feel even better about the future. Our council chairs revised how they collaborate so that we do a better job of prioritizing our initiatives. As a result, each council will do a better job in reinforcing the work of the other councils and the staff will know where they must focus their efforts. The result should be a more efficient and effective PCI.

As I pass the gavel to our 2010 chairman, Jim Sorenson, I want to thank our members for giving me the opportunity to serve you in 2009. I hope to be able to thank you in person at the 2010 PCI Convention and Exhibition, which will be combined with the Third International *fib* Congress in May. ▮



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