

# Chapter World

Mark your  
calendar for.....

March 30 - April 3, 2008

ACI Spring Convention, Los Angeles, CA

April 14 - 15, 2008

ACI Chapter Roundtable, Buffalo, NY

May 20 - 22, 2008

NRMCA Technology Forum, Denver, CO

September 15 - 16, 2008

ACI International Roundtable,  
Cartegena, Colombia

November 2 - 6, 2008

ACI Fall Convention, St. Louis, MO

December 1 - 2, 2008

ACI Chapter Roundtable, Albuquerque, NM

*Winter 2008*

## Chapter Representatives Gather in Charleston

The 72nd ACI Chapter Roundtable was held in Charleston, South Carolina, on November 29-30, 2007. Twelve chapters were represented by 23 chapter officers and directors, ACI officers, and ACI staff to exchange information on addressing the challenges of improving chapter operations. ACI President David Darwin welcomed participants and shared some of his experiences with the Kansas Chapter. The roundtable was moderated by ACI Chapter Activities Committee Chair Dawn Miller, Executive Director of the Las Vegas Chapter. The meeting included presentations by Chair Miller; John Glumb, ACI Managing Director, Systems, Services, and Chapters; Thomas Adams, ACI Manager, Chapter & Student Activities; and John Conn, ACI Manager, Certification Operations.

The topics discussed by the group included membership recruitment and retention; membership dues structures; popular meeting topics and speakers; chapter governance, including nominating and electing leaders; student and academic relations, including scholarship programs; and effective communication with members and the construction community. While chapters face many common challenges, the unique character of the local concrete communities influences the way chapters operate. A common theme that emerged from the discussions was the benefit from collaborating with other industry groups including ready mixed concrete associations and



*Attendees at the 72nd ACI Chapter Roundtable, Charleston, SC, November 29 – 30, 2008, front row, left to right: Gene Hightower, Alabama Chapter; ACI Executive Vice President William Tolley; ACI Vice President Luis Garcia; John Uhl, Louisiana Chapter; Dawn Miller, Chair, ACI Chapter Activities Committee, Las Vegas Chapter; John Conn, ACI Manager, Certification Operations; Thomas Adams, ACI Manager, Chapter & Student Activities; David Darwin, ACI President; middle row: Kenny Johnson, Carolinas Chapter; Jeremy Betts, National Capital Chapter; John Glumb, ACI Managing Director, Systems, Services, and Chapters; Frank Lennox, Georgia Chapter; James Kapesis, Louisiana Chapter; back row: Michael Hernandez, South Florida Chapter; Joe Garza, Missouri Chapter; Phil Schlossnagle, Florida Suncoast Chapter; Wayne Wilson, Georgia Chapter; David Barnes, Missouri Chapter; Steve Ackerman, Carolinas Chapter; Jack Kowalski, Virginia Chapter; and Steve Hahn, Carolinas Chapter.*

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concrete promotion groups; structural engineers associations; and local chapters of organizations such as the American Institute of Architects, the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Construction Specifications Institute.

John Conn, ACI Manager, Certification Operations presented an overview of the state of ACI Certification programs. Currently, 16 programs are available with additional programs under development. ACI chapters have the first right of refusal for new certification pro-

grams in their jurisdiction, making it very important that chapter leaders know what is on the horizon.

The first ACI Chapter Roundtable was held in Seattle, Washington, in 1972. Since that first event, roundtables have been held in the U.S., Canada, and several foreign countries, most recently in Athens, Greece, in October 2007. The spring roundtable will be held in Buffalo, New York, on April 14-15. An International Chapter Roundtable for Latin American chapters will be held in Cartagena, Colombia, September 15-16, 2008. The fall roundtable for domestic chapters will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on December 1-2. For more information on ACI roundtables, please contact Diane Pociask, ACI Chapter Coordinator, at (248) 848-3831.

## Meet Dawn Miller, Chapter Activities Committee Chair



When Professor Andrea Schokker agreed to serve as the Chair of the newly-created Advisory Committee for Young Members, she had to step down as Chair of the Chapter Activities Committee (CAC). Andrea had been a strong leader of the committee and an articulate advocate for ACI chapters. Her expertise in developing academic and student relations was greatly appreciated. Thankfully the CAC had many qualified candidates to succeed Andrea. Dawn L. Miller, Executive Director of the ACI Las Vegas Chapter, accepted this challenge. While Dawn is well-known to those who attend the meetings of CAC and ACI Committee C610 at ACI conventions, we thought all chapter leaders might want to know how Dawn works with the Las Vegas Chapter to serve a growing concrete community.

**Chapter World: How long have you served as Executive Director of the ACI Las Vegas Chapter?**

Dawn Miller: I have served as the Executive Director for the Las Vegas Chapter of ACI for 11 years.

**CW: What was your ACI chapter experience prior to coming to Las Vegas?**

DM: Prior to moving to Las Vegas, I was the Executive Director for the Oregon Chapter of ACI. Before that, I worked for the Oregon Concrete & Aggregate Producers

Association. I am surprised to say that I have been in the concrete association industry for almost 18 years now.

**CW: How big is the Las Vegas Chapter?**

DM: The Las Vegas Chapter currently has 275 members.

**CW: Tell us something about your chapter meetings and educational seminars.**

DM: Our Chapter has been very fortunate to have strong leaders chairing our Membership Meeting Committee. They have provided a schedule of strong speakers and topics resulting in meetings that are well attended by contractors, ready mixed concrete producers, and testing laboratories. This year we are working on adding lunch meetings to our schedule in order to provide educational resources to our engineering community. Offering Professional Development Hour certificates at each of these meetings has contributed to participation.

**CW: There are a number of ACI chapters that employ some kind of administrative person. From your perspective, what are the advantages of hiring administrative help?**

DM: Administrative help for a chapter means consistency. ACI Chapter Boards consist of members who volunteer their time and usually change every 1 to 2 years. By having an association administrator, a Chapter Board has a person who stays constant through each change. An association

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administrator also provides a consistent point of contact for chapter members.

### ***CW: Are there any disadvantages?***

DM: There are always disadvantages to any situation. In this instance, you need to hire the right person for the job. An association administrator needs to be organized, self motivated, and have the ability to work with a variety of people/personalities.

### ***CW: What do you regard as the strengths of your chapter?***

DM: One of the strengths of our chapter is our Certification program. Our chapter offers eight different ACI Certification programs and trainings. This translates into a certification program running every month. The Chapter wouldn't be able to provide such an extensive program if it didn't have the commitment and support of our Certification Chair, Board of Directors, local Examiners, and the industry at large. For those who are reading this article and thinking, "Our chapter isn't a local sponsoring group," remember, your chapter has the first right of refusal for new Certification programs. ACI has numerous Certification programs under development. When they are launched, consider developing a Certification Committee and offering them.

### ***CW: What do you think could be improved?***

DM: Currently, our Board of Directors is working to launch our second awards program. We had an awards program in 2004, but we have struggled to get the

second program off the ground. However, a resource that I used to bring ideas back to my Board of Directors was the Chapter Forum at the Atlanta Convention. The Chapter Forum featured representatives from three chapters explaining how their awards programs were conducted. The speakers provided just the type of information that I was looking for.

### ***CW: What is your biggest challenge as Executive Director?***

DM: The biggest challenge that I have as an Executive Director is .... I don't really have a big challenge because the chapter has a very active and participatory Board of Directors.

### ***CW: What role do you see for the Chapter Activities Committee in supporting ACI chapters?***

DM: I am very excited to be chairing the Chapter Activities Committee. I see this committee as having the responsibility for providing resources to chapters that will help them operate more effectively. The Chapter Activities Committee meets at every convention, which is twice a year. Even if you don't attend convention for any other reason, I would encourage Chapter Board members to begin attending the Chapter Activities Committee. It is a great forum to discuss current issues affecting chapters such as liability insurance, website development, and updating the Chapter Awards report. You don't have to be a committee member to participate, but you might want to become one after you start attending the meetings.

***CW: Thanks, Dawn.***

## 3 Things for Spring....

1. If you have not incorporated your chapter, just do it! Incorporation provides protection for officers and directors from personal liability.
2. Pay your taxes. Even if your chapter had no significant income, it is a good habit to file a return.
3. Develop a membership plan if you do not already have one. Even if you commit to something as simple as each officer/director recruiting five new members, you will be surprised how much growth you can achieve when you plant a simple seed.

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## ACI Launches New Certification Program

After several years of development, ACI Certification Committee C640, Craftsman Certification, launched the ACI Specialty Commercial/Industrial Concrete Flatwork Finisher & Technician certification program at World of Concrete 2008.

This program was developed in response to the ever-increasing demand of owners of large retail stores, warehouses, and superstores for higher quality concrete floors. Craftsmen who meet the program requirements will be nationally recognized at the highest certification level ACI and the concrete industry presently acknowledge for concrete flatwork.

- Certification as an ACI Specialty Commercial/Industrial Flatwork Technician requires successful completion of a written examination.
- Certification as an ACI Specialty Commercial/Industrial Flatwork Finisher & Technician requires successful completion of a written examination, successful completion of a performance examination, 1 year (2000 hours) of applicable work experience, and current or prior certification as an ACI Concrete Flatwork Finisher & Technician.

Three additional related specialist programs are available: High Tolerance, Silica Fume and Surface Treatments. Each specialty requires a separate examination.

ACI chapters have the first right of refusal for new certification programs. So even if your chapter is not currently a local sponsoring group for an ACI certification program, you can become an local sponsoring group for this new opportunity.

For more information, contact John Conn, Manager, Certification Operations at [John.Conn@concrete.org](mailto:John.Conn@concrete.org) or (248) 848-3718.

## When Alcohol Is Available at a Meeting.....

Many chapters hold meetings at which alcohol is available. A “social hour” is not uncommon for dinner meetings. Chapters that hold social events like golf outings will generally have alcoholic beverages available. However, care must be exercised to control the way drinks are served and to keep anyone who has had one (or three) too many alcoholic beverages from getting behind the wheel. There are some simple ideas that can be adopted to help prevent a tragedy.

- ✓ Do not have open bars. Drink tickets are a good way of helping to limit consumption.
- ✓ Be sure sufficient food is served, avoiding salty snacks.
- ✓ Provide complimentary nonalcoholic beverages.
- ✓ Limit bar hours. Do not keep the bar open for the entire event.
- ✓ Discuss bartender responsibilities prior to the meeting. Instruct bartenders to refuse service to anyone who appears intoxicated.
- ✓ Include dual indemnification clauses in contracts with host facilities. Select facilities that include alcohol service training for bartenders and wait staff.
- ✓ Never allow attendees to serve themselves.
- ✓ Have the telephone number of a taxi cab company handy in case someone is not fit to drive.
- ✓ Use a distinctive name badge for those under the legal drinking age.

Many chapters have general liability insurance coverage which provides some protection for host liability. However, there is still an obligation to act responsibly to control alcohol consumption.

## About this newsletter...

**Chapter World** served as the regular form of communication from the American Concrete Institute to ACI chapters for many years. This newsletter is currently published in electronic form only. This means we must have accurate e-mail addresses for chapter Officers and Directors. We encourage chapters to distribute the newsletter to chapter members.



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