

# THE WRMCA

A quarterly publication for members of the Wisconsin Ready Mixed Concrete Association

Third Quarter 2005

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## SCOOP<sup>©</sup>

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## MEMBERSHIP ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

President's Message, Richard Lohr, Van Der Vaart

I've journeyed down a few roads in the past, however, I can't say that I've been politically active. Oh sure I listen to Rush whenever I can, and certainly I cast my vote at election time, but I haven't pulled up a chair and sat in front of my senator's desk in the past. As your association president, I felt the pressure or obligation to do my part. I recently attended the Essie Consulting Group gathering with Wisconsin Senate Majority Leader, Dale Schultz. I enjoyed the experience very much. If I can do it- all of you can also!

Meeting Senator Schultz was a real pleasure. I found he is easy to talk

with and listens to our concerns. We discussed Wisconsin's QMP concrete program and ICF construction among other things. It was a successful gathering that I hope we can duplicate it again with more of my fellow members participating. I believe positive results will occur because of that gathering. Thanks to Tim Kieler, Kowalski Kieler, who also attended, and spoke about his experience with Senator Schultz when he visited his plant.

Also at this event was the official roll-out of the Essie Kammer Group. Pat Essie has named Peter Kammer as Vice President (please see inside box for details).

As an update from my last president's message, Your WRMCA board of directors is progressing in a joint hiring of an engineer with the Wisconsin Concrete Pavement Association. There have been no interviews or offers made at this point, but we seem to be heading there.

Your board of directors has been an active group this year! There is a lot of activity to report at each board meeting by multiple committees. All WRMCA members are invited to sit in on any of our meetings to see what we are up to, and I encourage you to get involved.

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# THE WRMCA SCOOP®

The WRMCA Scoop® is a quarterly publication of the Wisconsin Ready Mixed Concrete Association. Any comments or questions can be sent to *The WRMCA SCOOP®* editor, Amanda Robinson at [amandar@wrnca.com](mailto:amandar@wrnca.com).

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### HNI Risk Services

16805 W. Cleveland Ave  
New Berlin, WI 53151  
Pete Paulsen, Risk Advisor  
[ppaulsen@hni.com](mailto:ppaulsen@hni.com)

*Specializing in insurance and risk solutions for the construction and transportation industries.*

### Hribar Trucking, Inc

1521 Waukesha Road  
Caledonia, WI 53128  
Steven Hribar

*Concrete transit mixer, trucks front & rear discharge, batch plants and material handling systems for the ready mix industry.*

### Solomon Colors

S64 W24720 Susan Street  
Waukesha, WI 53189  
Keith Nault, Sales  
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*For over seventy-five years Solomon Colors has specialized in providing quality inorganic iron oxide pigments for the construction industry. Their product line includes pigments designed for ready mix, concrete products, mortar, and stucco applications. Solomon produces both dry pigments and liquid pigments for ready mix and concrete applications.*

## Essie Consulting Group changed to Essie Kammer Group, Peter Kammer named Vice President

Patrick Essie, President and founder of Essie Consulting Group, a lobbying and trade association management firm established in 1993, is pleased to announce that Essie Consulting Group has changed its name to Essie Kammer Group.

Peter Kammer, who has been with the firm since 2003, has recently been named to the position of Vice President. Kammer serves as both a lobbyist and Legal Counsel at the Essie Kammer Group.

Kammer has lobbied in Wisconsin since 1997 and worked prior to that in the State Legislature.

"Our firm continues to move forward, thanks to a great team that we have assembled," said Essie.

# MEETING ON THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPP



Wisconsin  
Ready Mixed  
Concrete  
Association

## **2006 WRMCA ANNUAL CONVENTION - in beautiful La Crosse, WI on the Mighty Mississippi River March 1 - 3, 2006**

Rolling bluffs and the river valley make this area notorious for beautiful scenery. There are many attractions to see and plenty of things to do. Save the dates now and make your plans today - March 1-3, 2006 at the Radisson Hotel, 200 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse, WI ph:608-784-6680 or 800-333-3333, web site, [www.radisson.com/lacrossewi](http://www.radisson.com/lacrossewi).

Bring your family, this is guaranteed to be a great convention for the entire gang!

The Concrete Design Award Ceremony will be held the first night, March 1.  
The second evening will be "We're Partner's Night" with live music, featuring the legendary band, *Little Vito and the Torpedos*.

There will be plenty of activities during the day for guests/family members.

Watch your mail in November for more details and registration information.

## WRMCA ESTABLISHES HURRICANE KATRINA DISASTER RELIEF FUND

The dire situation in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region has obviously created a tremendous need for supplies to help all of the displaced people. Many of us are contributing privately to charities that are helping the victims of this disaster. As an association, the WRMCA members and Board wish to bring together all the cooperative resources of our members and make a significant contribution to this effort.

The WRMCA is setting up a "disaster relief fund" that will allow the WRMCA to make a contribution to a charity of the Board of Directors' and members' choosing. We urge our members to help us to help others in this unprecedented time of need.

Please make a check payable to the WRMCA – Disaster Relief Fund.

We hope to be able to make this donation by September 26th so please do not hesitate to send your company's donation. Please send all checks to WRMCA Disaster Relief Fund, 16 N. Carroll Street, Suite 925, Madison WI 53703.

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# LATEST IN LEGISLATIVE

Erin Longmire, WRMCA Public Policy Director

## WRMCA Continues Momentum with Legislative Initiatives

The Wisconsin Ready Mixed Concrete Association continues to move forward on its legislative agenda for the 2005-2006 session.

### Quality Management Program

Members of the WRMCA Region Two producers, WRMCA technical committee, and WRMCA board of directors met with the Department of Transportation's Secretary Frank Busalacchi, Deputy Secretary Ruben Anthony, Jr., Executive Assistant Chris Klein and Division of Transportation System Development Administrator Kevin Chesnik on July 18th to discuss the specifications for the Marquette Interchange project, as well as the change to the Quality Management Program through the incentive portion being removed. The WRMCA also sent a letter on behalf of the association after the meeting, to once again reiterate the points made at the meeting. Namely that due to the radical changes that were given in the specifications from the Department on the Marquette Interchange project, the incentive portion being removed will disallow the assurance of the highest quality and most consistent concrete.

The Department of Transportation, in response to the meeting and the WRMCA letter, stated that they would take our recommendations and concerns and present them to two independent agencies for further review. The Department then submitted a letter to the WRMCA as to their findings. The Department will not change the specifications that were given on the Marquette Interchange Project, and even went so far as to state that the loss of the incentive in the specifications may be something the Depart-

ment would look to implement statewide. "There were also concerns of a trend statewide where contractors designed, and sometimes over-designed, concrete mixes to ensure that all incentive bonuses were achieved." (August 18, 2005 DOT letter)

The WRMCA Legislative Committee is looking proactively in the drafting of a bill that would statutorily put into place the Quality Management Program, with the incentives included. The WRMCA will also continue reaching out to the DOT on the QMP and address the issues that were relayed in their letter. To view the letter from the WRMCA and the subsequent letter of response from the DOT, please visit the WRMCA website, [www.wrmca.com](http://www.wrmca.com) under the members only section.

### ICF Construction

The WRMCA Legislative Committee has been working on drafting a bill that would add Insulating Concrete Forms (ICF) construction to the Wisconsin building permit as a separate check-off box. The WRMCA has been working with the Department of Commerce for the last two years in getting this added to the building permit, and with the assistance from the legislature, this will again be a highlighted issue from the WRMCA.

The WRMCA is working with Representative Sheryl Albers (R – Reedsburg) is circulating a bill in the legislature that would create an income and franchise tax credit for insulating concrete forms used in the construction of any building. The bill creates an income and franchise tax credit equal to the amount of the sales and use taxes that the

taxpayer pays in the taxable year on the purchase of insulating concrete forms used in the construction of any building. If the amount of the credit exceeds the taxpayer's tax liability, the taxpayer does not receive a refund, but may claim the amount of any unused credit in subsequent taxable years. The WRMCA will work in garnering support from other legislators, as well as various environmental groups in helping to move this bill through the legislature.

### WRMCA Legislative Committee

Volunteer Today! The WRMCA Legislative Committee is always looking for more members! The WRMCA's legislative agenda has grown significantly in the last year, and the ability for WRMCA members to participate on a legislative level is always available!

Please contact the WRMCA office at: (608)250-6304 to sign up as a legislative committee volunteer.



## WRMCA 2005 CONDUIT CONTRIBUTORS

### **PLATINIUM MEMBER**

Jesse Jacobs, Otto Jacobs

### **SILVER MEMBER**

Terry Alby, Alby Materials; Roger Drissel, R.K.W. Redi-Mix Concrete, Inc.; John Fahser, M & M Concrete; Michael Harvey, Van Der Vaart; Joseph and Sandra Marx, Dodge Concrete, Inc.; Jeremy Quinn, Holcim; Rich Lohr, Van Der Vaart, Inc.; Tim Kieler, Kowalski-Kieler, Inc.; Greg Knorr, Wisconsin Valley Concrete Products, Inc.

### **BRONZE MEMBER**

Amanda Robinson, Essie Kammer Group; Andrea Breen Lafarge N/A; Bob Peters, Central Ready Mixed Concrete; Brad Oertel, Wisconsin Concrete Company; Brandon Guenterberg, Okauchee Ready Mix; Craig Reedy, River City Ready Mix; Dan Large, S.I. Concrete Systems; Ed Gebauer, Lafarge N/A; Ed Troxell, Sonag Ready Mix, LLC; Gary Wallis, St. Marys Cement; Harry North, Wisconsin Valley Concrete; James and Bonnie Melvin, Melvin Companies; Jay Fricke, R & J Fricke; Joe Marx, Dodge Concrete; Mark Guenterberg, Okauchee Ready Mix; Michael Dougherty, Concrete Arts; Mike Anderson, Alby Materials, Inc.; Patrick Essie, Essie Kammer Group; Ritch Dembinsky, Meyer Material; Robert Tweeden, North Lake Sand & Gravel; Roger Uptadel, Cemstone Ready Mix, Inc.; Roger Volden, Holcim (US) Inc.; Ron Olynick, John S. Olynick, Inc.; Shawn Triller, Wingra Redi-Mix

Make a contribution to the WRMCA Conduit! Read about it and how to contribute at [www.wrmca.com](http://www.wrmca.com).

There you can download a conduit contribution form. Contribute to the WRMCA Conduit today!

Conduit Categories are: \$100 = Bronze Member, \$250 = Silver Member, \$500 = Gold Member, \$1,000 = Platinum Member

## WRMCA/NRMCA SCHOLARSHIP

The Wisconsin Ready Mixed Concrete Association, in conjunction with the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, is announcing a college scholarship program and essay competition. The program is designed to increase awareness of ready mixed concrete products among the youth of America while developing the next generation of industry leaders. The application was sent to schools all around Wisconsin in August. Rules are outlined in the application, which can be found on the WRMCA web site, at [www.wrmca.com](http://www.wrmca.com) under the "Scholarship Information" link.

### **In Memoriam Lester Kieler 1922-2005**

Lester Kieler, age 83, of Dickeyville, died on Thursday, Sept. 8, 2005, at Southwest Health Center Nursing Home in Cuba City. Lester grew up in the depression, growing up early and learning self-reliance. He used that attribute in World War II, hand crafting jewelry from silver in the South Pacific and sending every extra pound he made, back to his mother in Kieler. Lester knew what he wanted, to provide and he did unselfishly for his mother, himself and eventually his own family. His ambition, along with the money he saved, led him to create his own business, **Kowalski-Kieler Inc.**, with his brother-in-law, Donald Kowalski, in 1946.

Lester is survived by two daughters, Lois (Dave) Fritz of Potosi, and Jenny (Greg) Loyda of Whitefish Bay; four sons, Jack (Lois) Kieler, **Timothy (Shari) Kieler**, Dennis (Cheryl) Kieler, all of Dickeyville, and Dean (Carie) Kieler of Lake Mills; grandchildren, Dr. Nathaniel (Margaret) Kieler, Tyler Kieler, Shane Kieler, Chase Kieler, Paige Kieler, Emily Fritz, Maddie Fritz, Rachael Fritz, Timmy Fritz, Michael Loyda, Casey Loyda, Samantha Loyda, Kevin Kieler, Audreyann Kieler, Meghan Taylor, Travis (Kelly) Kieler, Shawn (Larry) Rogutich, and Josh Kieler, U.S. Navy; four great-grandchildren, Dylan, Payton, Ivan and Nadia; a great-grandson, soon to be born; three sisters, Mrs. Irene (Donald) Kowalski of Cassville, Mrs. Orpha (Francis) Kieler of Hazel Green, and Sister Genesis Ginter of Milwaukee; and a brother, Artie (Katie) Kieler of Hazel Green. He was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley, in 2005; a son, Lester "Les" Kieler, in 1998; his parents; a daughter-in-law, Joan Kieler; and a brother, Gene Ginter.

Howard "Buck" Barker, PE  
EMCS, Inc

*The views expressed in the following article are not necessarily those of the Wisconsin Ready Mixed Concrete Association, its Board of Directors, or its members.*

My habit of not charging for every 5 or 10-minute phone call may be a poor business practice, but it has led to many interesting conversations on concrete. Many such calls have come from the guy or gal in the trenches of the concrete industry: the quality assurance person.

The call might be prompted while convincing a client, educating a contractor or arguing with an engineer about some technical point regarding concrete. When he calls, he's looking for convincing information he can wield like a sword to cut through a wall of skepticism. He knows a quote from a credible source such as the American Concrete Institute (ACI), Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), or Portland Cement Association (PCA) is far more influential on skeptics than any one person could ever be. The convincing point he wants to use is familiar, but he can't remember the source. The in suing conversation usually starts with the question, "Where does it say...?"

"Where Does It Say...?"	Reference	Commentary
0.35 w-c ratio air-entrained (AE) concrete produces 6,000 psi and is very difficult to produce?	ACI 211 Table 6.3.4(a). Extrapolate on a curve $\approx$ 6,000 psi and the dash means very difficult.	A specification requiring a 0.35 w-c ratio & 4,000 psi strength mix is conflicting.
Fly Ash or Slag Cement can be used in a mix?	WisDOT QMP Spec Sec B.5.3 requires at least 15% to 30% Fly+ Ash or 20% to 30% Slag Cement in Bridges, Box Culverts & other structures.	WisDOT is extremely accountable for public safety & long-term performance. If they require ash & slag, it must be advantageous.
Ternary Mixes can be used? (Ternary = 3 cementitious materials)	WisDOT QMP Spec Sec B.5.3 now allows ternary mixes where combined Fly Ash & Slag is within 15% to 30% or total.	Since WisDOT allows ternary mixes, it has been thoroughly researched before approval.
Air content tolerances should be $\pm$ 1.5%, not $\pm$ 1.0%?	ACI 318, Table 4.2.1, PCA Design & Control and all WisDOT specs use a $\pm$ 1.5% tolerance for air content specifications.	$\pm$ 1.0% is too difficult to control. Note PCA Design & Control Tables 8-4 and 8-5 for 32 things that affect air content.
AE is not required in concrete for footings or interior columns & stairs?	ACI 318, Sec 4.2 & Table 4.2.1 requires AE only in moderate and severe weathering conditions.	AE does not benefit concrete that never freezes. However, it will reduce compressive strength.
Air content of concrete for interior flatwork should not exceed 3.0%?	To prevent blisters; ACI 302.1R, Sec 5.6.1 suggests max 3.0% air for concrete receiving a trowel-finished surface.	Some specifications have a blanket requirement for AE in all mixes. AE should not be used in interior concrete.
Mix water can be added on-site?	ACI 301 Sec 4.3.2.1 & WisDOT 501.3.5.3 allow it if spec w-c ratio is not exceeded.	Slump Adjustment means mix water can be added multiple times to adjust the concrete to a maximum slump once each load.
Air-entrainment can be added on-site?	ACI 301 Sec 7.2.4.4 & WisDOT 501.3.4.4.2 (structures only) allow AE addition on-site.	Equipment to accurately measure, dilute and add the AE solution to the truckload must be utilized.

The above list contains only a fraction of the most commonly asked, "Where does it say...?" requests. If your favorite or most useful tip has been missed or maybe there's one you've been pondering that you don't know where it came from, send WRMCA an email and we'll keep this reference list growing in the next *WRMCA Scoop*.

ACI 301-99, ACI 302.1R-96, and ACI 318-02 were referenced in this article. They are available from the American Concrete Institute in Farmington Hills, MI. Design and Control of Concrete Mixtures, 14th Edition, was also referenced in this article. It is available from the Portland Cement Association in Skokie, IL. WisDOT Stand Specifications for Highway and Structure Construction, 2003 Edition, is available online at [www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business).

# OES CORNER

Operations, Environment & Safety Committee

## Ready-Mix Inspection Activity in Wisconsin

From Spring of 2004 through to the present date, 31 inspections of ready-mix concrete employers were attempted by OSHA inspectors in Wisconsin. At five of these establishments, inspections could not be conducted because the processes were not active. At the other 26, inspections were conducted and, in all but one, violations were found. Here are some statistics on those inspections.

- Range of number of violations found per inspection – 0 to 24
- Average number of violations found per inspection – 8
- Median number of violations found – 7 (that means in half of the inspections, inspectors found between 7 and 24 violations!)

If an OSHA inspector were to start an inspection at your establishment tomorrow, would he or she be able to find any violations of OSHA standards? What exactly do OSHA inspectors look for as they walk through employers' facilities? How do you know if your safety efforts, so far, have been adequate?

## Most Frequently Cited OSHA Standards

Nationwide, from October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004, OSHA inspectors conducted 129 inspections of establishments in the ready-mix industry. Half of those inspections were of establishments who had less than 19 employees. The following table lists the 15 Most Frequently Cited OSHA Standards for the Ready Mix industry as a result of those 129 inspections.

### SIC 3273, Ready-Mixed Concrete

Standard Cited	Description
1910.146	Permit-Required Confined Spaces
1910.147	Control of Hazardous Energy, Lockout/Tagout
1910.1200	Hazard Communication
1910.134	Respiratory Protection
1910.23	Guarding Floor and Wall Openings and Holes
1910.219	Mechanical Power-Transmission Apparatus
1910.305	Electrical Wiring Methods, Components and Equipment
1910.215	Abrasive Wheel Machinery
1910.212	Machines, General Requirements
1910.95	Occupational Noise Exposure
1910.132	Personal Protective Equipment, General Requirements
1910.303	Electrical Systems Design, General Requirements
1910.151	Medical Services and First Aid
1910.157	Portable Fire Extinguishers
1910.253	Oxygen-Fuel Gas Welding and Cutting
1910.22	Walking-Working Surfaces, General Requirements
1910.27	Fixed Ladders

There are a number of resources to help ready-mix concrete employers come into compliance with OSHA standards. The best one is the one that costs small employers nothing. The Wisconsin Consultation Program has a staff of consultants who receive the same training as OSHA inspectors, but they have no enforcement authority at all. Not only was the Wisconsin Consultation Program created more than 30 years ago to serve small employers for free, but they define a small employer as one with less than 250 employees.

Call your local consultant and set up your free workplace visit today: 1-800-947-0553.  
Don't wait for an OSHA inspector to tell you what needs to be done.

# THE WRMCA SCOOP<sup>®</sup>

THIRD QUARTER 2005

## **Save the Dates!**

*For a complete listing of WRMCA events - check out the WRMCA calendar published weekly - In the Mix or on the WRMCA web site, [www.wrmca.com](http://www.wrmca.com) under WRMCA Events link.*

**Promotion Committee Meeting** Sept. 29, WRMCA office, Madison

**Region Three ICF Home Showcase** Oct. 5, Neenah

**Technical Committee Meeting** Oct. 11, Kalahari Resort, Dells

**Board of Director's Meeting** Nov. 10, Country Springs Hotel, Waukesha

**Concrete Design Awards' Entry Deadline** Dec. 2



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