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# THE MID-STATES CONCRETE MESSSENGER

Volume 1

Issue 3

July 2007

## Mid-States Makes SEC's Vision a Reality

By David Seeley

Director of Human Resources

Smith Engineering Consultants Group's new building in Yorkville Illinois went smoothly from sketch to living/working space thanks to the partnership between Prime Commercial, Mid-States and SEC, Inc. SEC will occupy 35,000 square feet of the overall 43,000 square foot building composed primarily of Mid-States Concretes pre-stressed Hollowcore plank and insulated wall panels.

"SEC's vision is virtually identical to ours,

they strive to add additional opportunities to make their clients and employees successful, and Mid-States is proud to have been able to assist them in that effort," stated Hagen Harker, President of Mid-States Concrete.

The new facility will allow SEC to expand from 80 professionals to an expected 140 after the structure is completed. The finishing touches are expected to be complete in the Fall of 2007.



Photos by Dennis McDougall

Above: SEC's First Artist Rendering. Top Right: SEC in mid construction. Right: SEC near final completion of staining the precast wall panel with selected colors.



## Installation Sequence Saves Time

By Toby Bennett

Project Manager

Prime Commercial and Mid-States Concrete worked closely together to develop a highly efficient installation sequence at the new SEC facility. It was quickly realized that if the steel was erected at the second and third levels MCI would be able to install the plank at both levels without interruption, minimizing the mobilizations for ironworkers and for MCI's crew.

After installation of the hollow core plank and roof steel, MCI mobilized Area Erectors on site for the erection of the wall panels. The 46-foot tall, non-load bearing wall panels with a cast in form liner that mimics the look and texture of real brick, were easy to install. Proper handling and loading procedures minimized the amount of abrasions on the wall panels, limiting the need for rework in the field.

MCI extends it's gratitude to all the foremen and crew members for making a new and challenging product installation go smoothly.



**Location:** Yorkville, IL 60560

**Developer:** Prime Commercial Corp.

**Architect:** Ollmann Ernest Architect

**Hollowcore:** 25,500 sq ft.

**Wall Panels:** 81 Panels



Photos by Dennis McDougall

Top: View of flexicore flooring and wetcast wall panels. Below: Beginning the painting of building trim.



# Lean Corner

By Lisa Noss

Lean Coordinator



How does a good company become a great company? One way is to integrate the principles of Lean Thinking into its culture. That is exactly what a team at Mid-States Concrete Industries is doing. In November 2006, President Hagen Harker assembled a group of individuals from various departments throughout the organization. Their mission was to learn about the concepts of Lean Thinking and decide if implementing these concepts would add value to the Mid-States organization. It didn't take long for the group to agree that Lean Thinking would make a positive impact at Mid-States allowing the company to better respond to the needs of its customers. Early in 2007 the initial team was paired down to a core group of individuals that would lead Mid-States through its lean journey.



The primary focus of the Lean initiative is to eliminate waste from all aspects of the flow path, from initial order receipt, through manufacturing and finally delivery to our customer. One specific focus area of the lean core team is the wall panel process. Specific teams have been established and are reviewing the critical functions within this process. Teams are creating value stream maps to identify all

the current steps needed to produce a piece and then looking for ways to make improvements that will help decrease cycle time and increase quality. A key part of eliminating waste is identifying it at its earliest step in the process, "we've added pre-drawing checks to stop waste from flowing downstream to our production team" stated Kevin Wald, Operations Manager at Mid-States. According to Wald this has increased the productivity and quality on the manufacturing floor. This is just one simple change that has had a dramatic impact; many more changes are currently being identified for future implementation.

The Mid-States lean team is excited about all the opportunities that Lean Thinking is creating for the organization. While the journey is just beginning, they know that the future will bring significant improvements that will allow the entire company to be even more responsive and able to create greater value for the customer.



Photo by Lisa Noss

**Yard Crew: Chuck Tankersley, Shannon Smith, and Rob Champlin, standardized tool kits for use in the yard, saving each worker at least 45 minutes a day searching for tools. Adds up to \$7800.00 per year in total time savings + increased productivity.**

# New Glarus

By David Seeley

Director of Human Resources

When New Glarus Brewing Co. decided to more than double its capacity, they called on Mid-States Concrete. The 75,000 square foot facility will be able to produce 100,000 barrels of delightful beer each year, thanks in part to the high quality beams and columns that support their much sought after products.



Photos by Dennis McDougall

**Top: View of brewing vats sit on MCI beams and columns. Below: Vat housing in a barn like structure. New Glarus, Wisconsin.**



# SAFETY FIRST

We would like to thank the **25 first responders** that help protect and treat us in the rare event that an accident or serious health problem should take place.

Efrain Mendiola

Shawn Watters

Jaron Combs

Al Harrington

Mark Buchko

Mike Stavn

Mike Wolff

Gio Piccione

Julia Vazquez

Brian Blum

Arnold Newland

Jim Rogers

Toby Bennett

Mike Wright

Shannon Scharmer

Aura Lea Harrison

Josh Holmes

Jamie Montour

Jeremy Olivotti

Shane Draeving

Jim Herbst

Shane Churchill

Ross Kossman

Travis Hill

Nick Jacobs

It's nice to know that if you have a problem in any area of the company, from the field to manufacturing to the office, there is likely to be a First Responder close by. Thanks again for volunteering.



Expand your Freedom > Experience our Commitment

- Word Scramble Answer Key:
- (1) Interactive Project Management
  - (2) Sandwich Panel
  - (3) Trowel Finish
  - (4) Element
  - (5) Flexicore
  - (6) Total Precast Structure
  - (7) Dedicated
  - (8) Quality

## MCI Charity Bowling for Hospice

By Mindy Frank  
Senior Project Designer



What a great time we had! Several participants came early for dinner and/or drinks. The evening officially kicked off at 7:00 with the ladies leading the 1st game. There were many 9-pin strikes, some natural strikes, and even a few gutter balls!! We won't say who had what... "what happens in Clinton, stays in Clinton". The ladies ended the first game with high scores over 240 and low games just below 100. The men took the commanding lead in the 2nd game and upped the final scores over 280! Chuck Tankersley showed his ever-so-humble bowling skills in the fourth game by bowling a 300!! Show off :-). Great job Chuck! Brad, with Cougar Lanes, was kind enough to make the rounds, collecting monies for not one, but two 50/50 raffles. Several tickets were purchased for the Raptors raffle, donated by Shawn Ryan's uncle, Pat Ryan. This raffle also included a night's stay at the Holiday Inn in Loves Park. The "Stuff" raffle, donated by Bill Graff with Gerdau Ameristeel, included a cooler on wheels (very cool), steak knives, stainless steel coffee mugs, and a few other nice items. Door prizes, donated by Mid-States, were also handed out throughout the evening.

For extra challenges, Cougar Lanes threw in colored bowling pins. Any bowler either leaving just the colored pin, or getting a strike when the colored pin was in the headpin

position could choose between a free pizza or a free drink. Speaking of free drinks, Bill Graff of Gerdau Ameristeel joined us for the event and was generous, yet again, by purchasing each bowler a free drink. That's 50 drinks!

THANKS MR. BILL!

I personally found the evening very entertaining and touching all at the same time. I was fortunate enough to partake in conversation with several people who unfortunately need or have needed the services that Hospice provides. As Katie was serving up another perfect pizza, she spoke of the relief Hospice brought to her family during the recent loss of her mother. Brad, our event host-extraordinaire, is currently relying on Hospice with his father's terminal illness. My neighbor, Marcell, recently losing her mother to cancer, speaks very highly of Hospice and the assistance she needed. What a great organization to be involved with. There can be no greater satisfaction than to bring comfort and relief to a grieving family.



Following is a breakdown of the monetary accomplishments we achieved for this fund raising effort:

- \$ 50.00 - Wal-Mart gift card donated by Bill Graff w/ Gerdau Ameristeel
- \$ 550.00 - Profits from bowling
- \$ 100.00 - Extra-charitable donations made
- \$ 98.50 - 1st 50/50 Raffle
- \$ 73.50 - 2nd 50/50 Raffle
- \$ 88.00 - Raptor's Raffle w/ Holiday Inn stay
- \$ 95.00 - "Stuff" Raffle donated by Bill Graff w/ Gerdau Ameristeel
- \$1,055.00 GRAND TOTAL

I want to thank everyone who participated in this event. Without participants and supporters, there would not be successes.

Our next feature project will be Judson College. It was submitted into the PCI Precast Showcase Awards. We are very excited about the results being announced in July and hope to be featured in the PCI Journals September issue. Also look for Mid-States Concrete Industries and Judson College to be featured in the October edition of Northern Illinois Real Estate Magazine.

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

*"The future belongs to those who believe in their dreams."*

-Eleanor Roosevelt



Photo by Dennis McDougall

Pictured above are Cindy Linnabary and Julia Vasquez cutting cake during Julie's going away party. MCI would like to express its gratitude and thank Julia Vasquez and Shannon Scharmer for their service to our country. Both have been recently deployed for 10 months and one year, respectively. Their patriotism and commitment to our nation is very much appreciated.

## SNAPS



Photo by Dennis McDougall

Gerson Artreche received a prize for this quarter's Safety Nickel Awareness Program (SNAP). Congratulations to all of you that were awarded Safety Nickels, you are all winners!

## PRECAST WORD SCRAMBLE

- 1) iveiactnre rjpecot amgaetnemn -----
- 2) swhidcan laepn -----
- 3) lroewt infsih -----
- 4) ctmeela -----
- 5) olcrixefe -----
- 6) talto pctsera sturuter -----
- 7) ecddeaidt -----
- 8) tiuqyal -----

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May you have a  
wonderful and  
safe 4th of July.



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Expand your  
Freedom > Experience  
our Commitment