In The Real World, The Picture Is A Little More Encouraging

According to the media, the economic forecast for the immediate future is unknown and somewhat foreboding. Fluctuations in the market have investors running scared as business owners and consumers brace themselves for a recession. But out in the real world, I have found a much more encouraging picture.

This summer I attended the PDCA-sponsored conference, The Design and Installation of Cost-Efficient Driven Piles. Between the highly informative seminars, I was able to spend some time talking with the contractors, suppliers and exhibitors who attended the conference. I was curious to see how general economic conditions were affecting their businesses. The dark and gloomy picture we seem to get from the news each night was not what is actually happening in our industry.

Most of the people I spoke with were fairly optimistic about the state of our nation. Contractors said they were either busy or business was picking up. Exhibitors echoed these sentiments, and their strong showing at the conference also drove this point home. Perhaps the stock market is riding on a roller coaster, but our industry is not. This is a trend I hope to see continue.

The national economy was not the only financial item on my agenda to discuss during the summer months. At our last meeting of the Board of Directors, we voted to increase membership dues. Next year, contractor/associate member dues will be $650, and technical membership will be $95. We have not raised dues since 1997, but I still want to relay the reason for our decision.

The PDCA now sponsors three major industry events each year: the DICEP Conference, the Winter Roundtable and now the Professors’ Institute. The board has committed to holding at least two more Professor’s Institutes, with the possibility of five total. I applaud this decision and want to relay the reason for our decision.

First Professors’ Institute A Success

This summer, 27 professors from colleges and universities across the country met in Utah for the first-ever College Professors’ Piling Institute.

Roundtable Focuses On Pile Driving Challenges

PDCA’s Seventh Annual Winter Roundtable will address issues that affect the pile driver every day.

Proven Success For Driven Pile Foundations

A seven-step process has been developed for selecting driving criteria that has proven to be a successful formula for the installation of driven piles.

S.C. Firm Fosters Camaraderie

In Charleston, S.C., estimator John King has a saying: “You can pay us (pile drivers) now or later, but eventually everything will be on piles.”

The Effect Of Diesel Hammer Combustion Chamber Pressure On Tension Stresses In Concrete Piles

Some piling contractors and engineers have observed that diesel hammers seem to have fewer problems with tension cracking on concrete piles than similar external combustion hammers.

PDCA Will Present Driven Pile Project Of The Year Award

Have you been involved in a driven pile project that was new, innovative or just plain exciting?

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