ACerS STRUCTURAL CLAY PRODUCTS DIVISION and SOUTHWEST SECTION MEETING

in conjunction with

The National Brick Research Center Meeting

May 9-12, 2017
Radisson Fort Worth North
Fort Worth, Texas

ceramics.org/clay2017

Thanks to our 2017 sponsors!

Basic Machinery Company, Inc.  MECO
Borregaard LignoTech  Niokem, Inc.
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J. C. Steele & Sons, Inc.
Schedule of Events

**Tuesday, May 9**
- Registration open: 3 – 6 p.m.
- Hospitality Suite: 5 – 10 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 10**
- Registration open: 7 – 7:30 a.m.
- Plant Tours: Acme Brick (Denton) & Meridian Brick (Mineral Wells) All Day
- Lunch Sponsored by Acme Brick: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Suppliers Mixer Reception: 6 – 7:30 p.m.
- Hospitality Suite: 6 – 10:30 p.m.

**Thursday, May 11**
- Companions Breakfast: 7:30 – 9 a.m.
- Technical Session 1: 8 a.m. – Noon
- Lunch for all attendees: Noon – 1:30 p.m.
- Includes SW/ACeRs Business Meeting
- Technical Session 2: 1:30-6 p.m.
- Reception: 6:30 – 7 p.m.
- Banquet: 7 – 9 p.m.
- (reception from 6:30-7:00 pm)
- Hospitality Suite: 9 – 10:30 p.m.

**Friday, May 12**
- NBRC member meeting: 7:30 – 10:30 a.m.
- (NBRC Members Only)

**Wednesday, May 10**

**ACME BRICK COMPANY | DENTON PLANT | DENTON, TEXAS**

Acme Brick Company has been manufacturing brick in Denton for more than a century. The Denton Pressed Brick Company was Acme’s first major acquisition, in 1910. Beginning with the conversion to stiff-mud operations, the plant has undergone decades of investment and improvement. Today the Denton plant is Acme’s largest, with an annual production capacity of over 130 million brick equivalents. Its 234 associates manufacture brick in 70 standard colors on two production lines that feed three kilns. To support commercial applications, the plant offers a wide selection of special shapes.

In 2007, on their fifth attempt, Denton Plant associates produced the world’s largest brick as certified by the Guinness Book of World Records. “Baby Clay” is 116 inches long, 39 inches tall, and roughly 3,000 brick equivalents. It “resides” on a custom trailer and is transported for special events from time to time.

Also on the grounds of the Denton Plant are Acme Brick Company’s Technical Center, a pacesetting research laboratory facility that has operated nearly six decades without a single incident resulting in lost time; and Innovative Building Products, an Acme division that fabricates aluminum grids for glass block, structural glass floors, and the Fast Track Stone System. (visit brick.com)

**MERIDIAN BRICK | MINERAL WELLS WEST PLANT | MINERAL WELLS, TEXAS**

The Mineral Wells West Plant has been making brick at this location since the late 1800s. The plant produced the brick to rebuild the sea wall in Galveston, Texas after the hurricane of 1900. This plant also produced the brick that paved the highway from Mineral Wells to Fort Worth.

- All of the material is mined on site and as of the beginning of 2017, the plant has an 84-year supply of material left.
- The site is located on 263 acres; 229 of those acres are part of our mine.
- The plant is located 45 miles west of Fort Worth.
- The current plant was built in 1979 and can produce 110 million king size residential bricks a year. The plant also produces Versa Thin Brick. It has 49 employees including the staff.
- In late 2016, Forterra Brick merged with Boral Brick to make them the largest brick manufacturing company in North America.

**Technical Session Presentations – Meacham Room**

**MORNING** 8 A.M. – 12 P.M.
- **Rheometer Measurements on Brickmaking Clays and Shales**
- **Tornado Recover**
- **Meridian East Plant History**
- **Maximizing Recoveries with Large Blocks**
- **Employee Empowerment**
- **Fabrication Expertise of the Highest Degree**
- **Perla West Gate**

**AFTERNOON** 1:30 – 6 P.M.
- **Hardcaking Updates**
- **Measuring the Crystalline Silica Content of Raw Materials**
- **Denton Plant Tour Review**
- **Denton Research Lab**
- **Back in Black; Key Elements in Color and Sheen for Product Development**
- **Lesson 3 on Kiln and Kiln Maintenance**
- **Triangle Brick Clay County Plant Virtual Tour**

**ACeRS Structural Clay Products Division Leadership**

**Chair:**
- **John Hewitt**, Interstate Brick Company

**Chair-elect:**
- **John Dowdle**, Prince Minerals, LLC

**Vice Chair:**

**Secretary:**
- **Mike Walker**, National Brick Research Center

**Southwest Section Leadership**

**Chair:**
- **Harland Dixson**, Acme Brick Company

**Chair-elect:**
- **Japa Castro**, Columbus Brick Co.

**Vice Chair:**
- **David Ziegler**, Prince Corporation

**Secretary:**
- **Fred McMann**, Fives North American

**Treasurer:**
- **Glenn Holladay**, Materials & Ceramic Chemicals

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