President’s Message

Last month I mentioned how excited I was to be hosting the Legacy Safety Leadership “Train the Trainer” presentation from CEMEX. If you missed last month’s article, this is a detailed, two-day course on how their safety culture and program work for their organization, and how you might set up a similar program. The course was open to any ASCC member and we held it in Houston, April 5th & 6th. The focus of the course was to help our members use the principles of the CEMEX Legacy program to enhance their own safety programs.

Over 20 attendees from all across the country attended including concrete contractors, general contractors and manufacturers from NY, NC, TX, OH, and CA. Everyone was actively engaged and I believe everyone walked away with a new perspective on safety for their organization, and with a plan on what they can do to increase their focus on safety. This is the second time I have gone through this program and I learned new techniques that I missed the first time. I plan to use these to help our company become safer.

At ASCC we are constantly working to provide tools to our members that help them improve their business. The Legacy training is an example. We have many other opportunities available that can help your business be successful. I encourage you to take advantage of these whenever you can. I know you will find these opportunities, coupled with interaction with other fellow members, will help you operate your business in a superior manner.

Todd Scharich Accepts Full-Time Position

Todd Scharich, ASCC’s part time decorative concrete specialist since 2012, recently accepted a full time position with the association as director of member services. He will continue in his role of decorative concrete specialist.

Todd has been an advocate and innovator in the decorative concrete industry for over 20 years. He has helped increase the level of workmanship through education at all levels, while increasing the demand for decorative concrete with the design/build community. With the Decorative Concrete Council (DCC) as a resource, he has supported contractors on the Decorative Concrete Hotline. Daily questions can include specifications, installation methods, trouble prevention, and corrective actions. He has led the DCC’s last three community projects, and continues to be a speaker, trainer and writer on the national level. He can be contacted at tscharich@ascconline.org.

Welcome New Members

Constructora Virtual, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Decorative Concrete of Virginia, Lynchburg, VA
Durham Construction Company, Inc., Austin, TX
EM Concrete Services LLC, Buford, GA
Mertzger / McGuire, Concord, NH
Phoeze Concrete Inc., Hildale, UT
Ram Jack North, West Fargo, ND
Weller Construction, Sonora, CA

Industry Calendar

MIX Group Orientation
L.L. Geans Construction Co., Mishawaka, IN
April 28 – 30, 2016

Concrete 2029 Visioning Workshop
San Antonio, TX
May 10, 2016

Concrete Executive Leadership Forum
The Lodge at Torrey Pines, La Jolla, CA
July 14 – 17, 2016

Annual Conference
Minneapolis, MN
September 15 – 18, 2016
Helping Contractors Overcome Problems

It’s always interesting and energizing to see how ASCC responds to members’ concerns. Some of the major issues we’ve dealt with over the years are tolerances, sealers for decorative concrete installations, delamination, finding a way for great finishers who are test-adverse to become certified, and dealing with the difference in how Div. 3 and Div. 9 contractors measure floor flatness. Those are just a few industry challenges ASCC has rallied around with publications, seminars, inter-industry workshops, and other efforts.

A current situation confronting a number of contractors is installing a slab that will be polished. Both the slab contractors and the polishing contractors are having problems defining just how the slab to be polished should be specified. ASCC members have raised the issue in committee meetings and there have been questions on the contractor email form and questions to the decorative and concrete construction hotlines. Outside of ASCC we see the issue raised regularly as well. And we’re on it.

With an offer from the editor of The Construction Specifier to submit an article for the June issue, technical director Bruce Suprenant rounded up a few members as co-authors to provide an excellent story entitled “Specifying the Concrete Slab to be Polished.” This follows on the heels of a column in the Feb/Mar 2016 issue of Concrete Contractor by Bruce and Ward, “Polished Concrete, Differing Results for Slabs-on-ground and Suspended Slabs.”

At our Annual Conference in September, in Minneapolis, we will offer a combination workshop/demo on this topic, involving contractors, producers and consultants.

The Technical Committee plans to have a “Checklist for the Polished Concrete Pre-Construction Conference” ready and available at the Annual Conference. This should provide an excellent tool to foster communication and understanding prior to project startup.

I believe one of the best qualities of a good organization is responsiveness. While we certainly can’t solve everything, I’m proud of the way we’ve tackled many of the hefty problems that have plagued our members.

Creative, Durable, and Safe!

In the two months following World of Concrete my PowerPoint presentation software has officially worn out. I have provided decorative concrete education to an endless group of architects, engineers, ready-mix producers and contractors. The take away from these trainings is that people want decorative concrete that is durable and safe. Owners and architects like decorative concrete, but concerns of longevity, maintenance, and budget sometimes prevent their usage.

While showcasing DCC award winning work from the last few years, the focus keeps falling back to one group of pictures. Integrally colored, controlled etched projects have caught the design communities’ eye. This application meets all their requirements for creativity, durability, and safety. As with most trends in our industry, contractors on the coast start and perfect it and the other 90% of us follow and learn. Additionally, new products are available that aid in creating an appealing etched surface that contractors should embrace. The beautiful workmanship of colored and etched projects will lead to an increased demand for this rapidly growing segment so be prepared and trained to answer the call.

Safety & Risk Management Council

OSHA’S RULE CHANGE ON SILICA EXPOSURE

In our industry, a person is exposed to silica dust when they chip, cut, drill, or grind silica-containing materials such as concrete and stone. Respirable particles can be inhaled by the worker and are then encapsulated inside the lungs. Long term exposure has the potential to lead to serious respiratory complications and/or disease.

OSHA has issued a final rule to curb lung cancer, silicosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and kidney disease in workers, by limiting their exposure to respirable crystalline silica. Following are the key provisions of OSHA’s new rule for the construction industry:

- Reduces the permissible exposure limit (PEL) for respirable crystalline silica from 250 to 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air, averaged over an 8-hour shift.
- Requires employers to use engineering controls (such as water or ventilation) to limit worker exposure to the PEL; provide respirators when engineering controls cannot adequately limit exposure; limit worker access to high exposure areas; develop a written exposure control plan; offer medical exams to highly exposed workers; and train workers on silica risks and how to limit exposures.
Requires medical exams to monitor highly exposed workers and gives them information about their lung health.

The ASCC has partnered with the Construction Industry Safety Coalition (CISC) to review and comment on the new OSHA Standard on Silica Exposure. The CISC consists of 25 trade associations representing virtually every aspect of the construction industry. The CISC members have serious concerns about the new OSHA ruling. The key concerns of the CISC:

- If the new standard is reasonable and appropriate
- If OSHA has substantial evidence to support changing the current standard, and if the changes they propose are financially and technically feasible
- If the new PELs and Action Levels are realistic and achievable for the construction industry, and
- The reliability of the data on which OSHA based its findings

The CISC and other industry groups will be challenging OSHA to demonstrate this rule is necessary and appropriate. While the ASCC is committed to improving the health and safety of all workers in the concrete construction industry, we also believe that this can and should be accomplished in a manner that achieves these goals in an effective and economic way. As the process progresses, the SRMC will be providing more information. In the meantime, the rule for the construction industry will become effective on June 23, 2017, and it behooves all members to become familiar with the requirements of the new rule so member companies are prepared to meet the requirements.

**How to Join an ACI Technical Committee**

Bruce Suprenant, Technical Director

We have been asked recently about how to join an ACI technical committee. This is a nice step forward from when we used to be asked: Why join an ACI committee?” Now that we passed the “why” hurdle, let’s tackle the “how” of ACI committee membership. The information presented is excerpted from ACI’s Technical Committee Manual.

ACI technical committees have four categories of members; voting members, associate members, consulting members, and liaison members. All four categories have access to the technical committee webpage. Only voting members can vote on ballots; however, associate, consulting, and liaison members are allowed to offer opinions on ballots. ASCC concrete contractors are usually interested in becoming voting or associate members.

Prospective committee members must submit a committee application. To get an ACI committee application, or to fill out and submit a committee application online, go to: www.concrete.org/committees/joinacommittee.aspx. Your application will be forwarded to the chair of the appropriate technical committee.

The committee chair appoints voting members based on the applicant’s personal knowledge and expertise. Voting members are required to participate actively in committee work by contributing technical information, promptly returning all committee ballots, replying to correspondence, and regularly attending committee meetings.

A person applying for voting membership may be appointed as an associate member by the chair for a variety of reasons, including maintaining balance of interests within the committee or limiting voting membership changes during balloting of a committee document. An associate member term is for 4 years. It should be noted that ACI 301 (Specifications), ACI 318 (Building Code) and ACI 562 (Eval, Repair & Rehab) do not accept associate members.

If you are interested in a particular committee, we recommend that you fill out and submit an application online. If you are an ACI member, you are automatically assigned as an associate member of that committee. As an associate member, you can get the meeting agendas and minutes, committee correspondence, and ballots. You also have access to the committee’s webpage. Let the chair know of your interest by attending a few meetings and when appropriate, volunteering for committee work.

Because of balance of interest or other reasons, the chair may not be able to appoint you as a voting member. It is appropriate to ask why, and to inquire about when you might be invited to be a voting member.

Concrete contractor involvement is an important part of improving ACI documents. ASCC recognizes the importance of this effort and, for the first time, is sponsoring a contractor reception at the ACI Convention in Milwaukee on Tuesday, April 19 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. We are encouraging all contractors, including non-ASCC members, to attend and discuss important contractor topics. We have invited some ACI Committee chairs, and TAC members. Mike Schneider, Baker Concrete Construction, incoming ACI President, will be recognized. Join us to welcome Mike as President and to talk with other ASCC contractors involved in ACI activities.

**New Books on Concrete Fundamentals and Decorative Concrete**

The American Concrete Institute expands its Concrete Craftsman Series with two new books for concrete industry professionals – *Concrete Fundamentals* and *Placing and Finishing Decorative Concrete Flatwork*.

*Concrete Fundamentals* – now in full color, with updated content and dual units – is for anyone who wants an introduction to concrete and concrete construction. The book starts with the most basic questions of all, “What is concrete?” with later chapters covering materials, construction practices, testing, and more. This book is a valuable starting point for someone in the concrete
industry, whether they are an apprentice, a journeyman, a foreman, a material supplier, a finisher, or even a young engineer without field experience. This book can also be a useful resource for inclusion in training and development programs, and it’s priced affordably at $49 (ACI members $29).

Placing and Finishing Decorative Concrete is a full-color book that provides details about the materials, equipment, and techniques required to successfully install decorative concrete flatwork. Published to raise the quality of education for the decorative concrete industry, this book supplements existing resources by providing knowledge of the materials, equipment, and techniques required to successfully install decorative concrete flatwork. Decorative concrete topics covered include:

- Mix design
- The use of integral color and dry-shake color hardeners
- Finishing tools, equipment, stamping mats, and stencils
- Surface retarders and set-retarding admixtures to produce exposed aggregate surfaces
- Stamping and texturing concrete
- Seeding fresh concrete surfaces with decorative aggregate
- Decorative treatments for stair treads and risers
- Cleaning and sealing methods for decorative concrete

This document also covers topics that are universal to concrete flatwork construction:

- Jobsite and personal safety
- Ensuring the design adheres to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines
- Preplacement site preparation and identification and uses of finishing tools

Additionally, two chapters of texture samples and project examples are included. Placing and Finishing Decorative Concrete is priced at $65 (ACI members $39).

Congratulations to ACI Award Winners

Lance Boyer, president of ASCC member Trademark Concrete Systems, Oxnard, CA, received the ACI Education Award at ACI’s Spring Convention in Milwaukee, earlier this week, “in recognition of his determination in the development of ‘Placing and Finishing Decorative Concrete Flatwork,’ which will serve as the knowledge source for the Decorative Concrete Finisher Certification program and fills the need for a comprehensive educational document on the design, construction, and maintenance of decorative concrete flatwork.” Jeff Coleman, FACI, received the Delmar L. Bloem Distinguished Service Award “for outstanding leadership of Committee 132, Responsibility in Concrete Construction.” Coleman is a licensed professional engineer, attorney at law, and principal partner of The Coleman Law Firm, LLC, Minneapolis. Larry Rowland, manager marketing and technical services, Lehigh White Cement Co., Allentown, PA, and Alan Sparkman, executive director, Tennessee Concrete Association, Nashville, TN, received ACI Concrete Sustainability Awards.

SUBMIT YOUR ASCC SAFETY AWARD ENTRY FORMS NOW

- Zero Lost Time
- Recognition (Incident rate below industry average)
- Improvement
- Outstanding Achievement
- Fleet Safety
- NEW Member Owner Award

HOT LINE QUESTIONS

CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION 800-331-0668
Safety & Insurance 866-788-2722
Decorative Concrete 888-483-5288

Ward Malisch – wmalisch@ascconline.org
asc@ascconline.org
Todd Scharich – tscharich@ascconline.org

ASCC members have access to these toll-free numbers for assistance.

Webinars begin at 3:00 p.m. CST

May. 11, 2016  Cyber Safety  Paul Gouge, CNA

Members no charge. Non-members $35; MC, Visa, Amex only. Call 866-788-2722 to register.