President’s Message

As I write this month’s message, we are almost halfway into August and the fall season is approaching. Every fall the ASCC Annual Conference should be on your radar. It is upcoming September 15-18, 2016 in Minneapolis and as always, we have a great agenda. As part of the conference, we have our Safety Awards at our opening dinner, where we recognize members of ASCC who are leaders in safety. We have workshops and seminars on safety, productivity, quality, contracts, new technology and many other topics. Throughout my years as a member of the ASCC I have attended many of our conferences, and I always get something meaningful from each one that helps us at Keystone be a better organization. The conference is only a few weeks away, so act now and get signed up! A link to sign up is attached to the newsletter.

Executive Director’s Message

Bev Garnant

Take a few minutes to go through the brochure and fill out this form, giving some thought — before you’re checking in to the hotel — as to what will be the most beneficial speakers and activities for you and your business.

If you’re bring more people have them do the same. Make sure you’re all attending different sessions to maximize your time, dollars and return.

And as I always say, if there’s anything staff can do to help – an introduction for example – please ask. We’ll do whatever is within our human powers. For us to exercise our superhuman powers you will need to be a sustaining member.

Industry Calendar

Concrete 2029 Workshop
Salt Lake City, UT
September 7, 2016

Strategic Development Council Session #40
Salt Lake City, UT
September 8 – 9, 2016

Annual Conference
Minneapolis, MN
September 15 – 18, 2016

ACI Fall Convention
Philadelphia, PA
October 23 – 27, 2016

MIX Group Orientation
L.L. Geens Construction Co., Mishawaka, IN
November 3 – 5, 2016

World of Concrete
Las Vegas, NV
January 16 – 20, 2017

CONEXPO - CON/AGG
Las Vegas, NV
March 7 – 11, 2017

Welcome New Members

Chief Concrete, Las Vegas, NV
FARO Technologies, Inc., Lake Mary, FL
JA Smith & Co., Cartersville, GA
LaRusso Concrete, Wilsonville, OR
Productions Team Inc, Green Umbrella, Prattsville, AR
Ram Tool & Supply, Birmingham, AL
Silexdesign, Clermont, FL

Red = Sustaining Member

KCS Construction LLC, Columbia, TN
Moved to Sustaining Member
Leadership Skills – Available at ASCC

Todd Scharich, Decorative Concrete Specialist

Last month’s CELF (Concrete Executive Leadership Forum) featured FDNY Battalion Chief Richard Picciotto sharing his 9/11 experience, “Last Man Down.” He shared the harrowing story of being inside the World Trade Center North tower as it collapsed. The chief and other firefighters were going up the stairwells while everyone else was trying to get out. His story, but especially his slapping of the podium to simulate the floors pancaking on each other above his head and around him, is something I will never forget. In seconds, concrete and steel turned to dust from the weight of the structure falling upon itself. He and other firefighters, some who survived and others who did not, were left trapped in complete darkness.

The evening following his presentation my wife Joy and I were able to share lighter moments with Chief Picciotto and we stumbled upon the topic of people “types”. Specifically we talked about good people who require leadership. On 9/11, at the World Trade Center, there were hundreds of stories of leaders who looked out and reached out to save others. Unfortunately there are also stories like the one the chief shared about the group of people still holding a conference in the North tower, AFTER the terrorist plane had struck the building, AND after the South tower had collapsed. These weren’t bad people, and they aren’t necessarily dumb people, but in this situation they truly needed leadership.

Chief Picciotto recognized that we were at a leadership conference and asked about the overall concrete industry and how we represented it, which really made me think about the role of ASCC and its members. Our membership is made up of the leaders in concrete construction. Leaders that can influence the products, methods, and even the rules that all other concrete contractors benefit from. There is no other industry group like ASCC that truly looks out for the best interest of their peers, whether they desire our help or not. The devotion of ASCC members be leaders will not make national news, and likely won’t lead to best selling books, but our industry is filled with good people who need leadership, or training to become leaders. ASCC is committed to providing the workplace and the tools for leadership development in concrete construction for years to come.

Safety & Risk Management Council

Janet Stanton, SRMC Board

If You See Something, Say Something

“See something, say something” is a phrase we see posted all over New York. It was developed by Allen Kay, an Advertising Executive who, after 9/11, wanted to do something to raise awareness so people could be proactive about protecting themselves and others from an unexpected attack.

I think we can all agree that accidents and injuries are unexpected. After all, if we knew they were coming, wouldn’t we try to stop them from happening? So why not use the “if you see something, say something” slogan on our job sites? We all have professional emergency services to protect us on a daily basis. Those agencies spend a lot of time and money training their people to make sure that they are constantly ready to spring into action (just as our company’s management and upper-level workers do). Using this philosophy the agencies whose job it is to keep us safe ask us to be accountable and proactive in keeping ourselves and others safe by sharing in the responsibility. They don’t expect US to disarm the device, they just ask us TO TELL THEM about its existence so that THEY can disarm it and keep us safe. It does work, as evidenced by dangerous situations that have been averted because someone was observant and brought it to the attention of the person who could do something.

There are several easy answers to the question “Who is in charge of safety on this project site?” The finger generally gets pointed outwardly towards anyone else but ourselves. Imagine the power of having 40 pairs of eyes looking for ways to work safely, instead of just one. Imagine every worker looking at a potential fall hazard as if it were an abandoned backpack in the midst of a crowd. Maybe it isn’t within their ability to actually correct the hazard, but it most certainly is within their ability to report it to someone who can.

Let’s try bringing every one of our workers into the safety process by involving them in being accountable for safety on the job site. Listening and responding with concern by abating an unsafe condition they reported, will show them that if you “see something AND say something” people will go home at the end of the day accident and injury free.

An Accident That Could Have Been Much Worse

It was early Saturday morning as the worker grabbed a placement hose suspended from an outreached boom connected to a concrete pump truck. The concrete pump had just been primed and the pour crew was ready to place the first yard of concrete. The crew expected concrete to begin pouring from the hose, but instead they heard the pump engine revving, its RPMs rising higher and higher. What happened next is what every operator and placement crew fears: the pump became plugged, allowing air to build up in the system and causing a high-pressure release of concrete.

As a result, the pump pushed the plug out of the system, the resulting pressure release shot concrete over 20 feet from the work area causing the 4” diameter by 10-ft long hose to whip violently. The worker directing the placement hose was hit several times. The first hit shattered his face shield and broke his safety glasses. The second hit damaged his hard hat and knocked him to the ground.

The worker was taken to an emergency medical facility for examination where it was determined he suffered no lasting injuries and required only first aid. The worker had been spared serious injury due to the use of PPE and because his training had taught him to recognize the signs of pressure building in the pump system and what to do.
When the worker heard the concrete pump revving higher, he let go of the hose and immediately began backing away from the area. When the pressure released, he was several feet further back from the hose than he might have been. When the end of the hose hit, the force of the blows was reduced due to the increased distance from the work area. Training and good work practices helped reduce the severity of the incident, however the injury could have been fully prevented.

During the incident investigation, it was discovered that the concrete pump had recently been through major repairs and maintenance. According to the pump operator, the unit had been prone to mechanical and operational issues since the repairs. This was not communicated to the pour crew. If the placement crew had known about the potential pump issues, they could have adjusted their work practices to minimize potential exposure.

Additionally, the operator had not completed a full equipment inspection before starting the pour. If the operator had done a thorough inspection, he might have noticed dried concrete on the underside of the protective grate covering the pump’s concrete receiving hopper. (It was theorized that the dried concrete within the hopper may have come loose, plugging the pump and causing the incident.)

After the incident investigation had been conducted, the following corrective action was initiated:

1. New items were added to the pre-pour safety checklist requiring:
   a. The pump operator to review and sign the company’s checklist before the pour.
   b. The pump operator to list any potential mechanical issues that could affect the safety of the crew.
   c. The pour crew superintendent to review the operator’s equipment inspection prior to starting the pour.
2. Whenever possible, the first yard of concrete will be placed directly into the concrete form with the pour crew at a safe distance until the mixture is homogeneous and safer to handle. (The first yard of a pour is the most prone to plugs and air build-up in the system.)

There are many ways to improve safety in our work environment. One of the biggest remains communication. While equipment, training and experience lessen the severity of the incident, better communication might have prevented it completely.

New Publications Highlight Concrete Construction

Six articles in three publications featuring nine authors published in three months—on concrete construction! These articles will help concrete contractors, so highlights are provided for each article. If you have any questions about these articles, check with Bruce Suprenant or Ward Malisch.

- **“Movements that Affect Tolerance Measurements”**
  by Bruce A. Suprenant and Ward R. Malisch, Concrete International, July 2016.
  
  Highlights movements such as curling for slabs-on-ground, deflection for suspended slabs, lateral deflection for walls that are backfilled and columns supporting slabs that are prestressed, and temperature changes that affect the final position of the structure. These movements affect measurements made to determine compliance with tolerances. As such, tolerance measurements should be made prior to these movements. We have already received comments from concrete contractors that this article was long overdue.

- **“Effect of Cold Curing Water on Concrete”**
  by Ronald L. Kozikowski, Heather J. Brown, Ward R. Malisch and Bruce A. Suprenant, Concrete International, August 2016.
  
  Some specifications limit the temperature difference to 20°F between the curing water and surface of concrete where the water is placed. This means that if the temperature of the concrete slab surface is 100°F, the curing water can’t be cooler than 80°F. The purpose of this specification was to eliminate surface cracking. This article provides calculations and data showing that 20°F is not the appropriate limitation on this temperature difference. In three separate experiments, ponded curing water with a temperature difference greater than 50°F was applied to concrete and resulted in no surface cracking.

- **“Concrete Industry Tolerances for ADA/ABA Work,” ASCC Position Statement #43**
  by American Society of Concrete Contractors, Concrete International, August 2016.
  
  The American Disabilities ACT (ADA) says that conventional industry tolerances apply. But what are they? This Position Statement describes the industry tolerances and their use for walkways and ramps. This information should not only help concrete contractors but also designers who are designing slopes for walkways and ramps. Position Statement #43 is included in this month’s mailing.

- **“Specifying the Concrete Slab to be Polished”**
  by Todd Schanich, Chad Gill, Steve Lloyd, Pat Harrison and Bruce Suprenant, The Construction Specifier, August 2016.
  
  Specifiers are currently using their regular Division 3 Cast-in-Place Concrete specifications for concrete that will receive a polished finish. These specifications are not sufficient to provide a concrete slab that will provide a good polished floor. The authors from ASCC, DCC, CPAA and ACI provide recommendations on specifications that will provide a slab suitable to be polished. This article has already been posted on the ACI 310 Decorative Concrete web site for the committee’s review.
“Uniform Polished Concrete Starts with the Canvas”
by Denny Bartz, Pat Harrison and Bruce Suprenant, Concrete Contractor, September 2016.

How do you meet specifications for a concrete slab that will be polished? This article describes the means and methods used on over 100 slabs that were subsequently polished. These recommendations will assist concrete contractors in providing the polishing contractor with a floor that he can polish and that will impress the owner! This article will be available at the ASCC Annual Conference in Minneapolis.

“Contractors Make Recommendations Based on Experience”
by Ward R. Malisch and Bruce A. Suprenant, Concrete Contractor, September 2016.

Making recommendations to the owner or design team? Certainly! And concrete contractors have plenty of experience to provide input and recommendations. However, this input is based on prior experience and should not be considered as providing engineering or design services, nor accepting design liability. Only the engineer of record can determine if the contractor’s experience is valid for the project, Code requirements and Owner’s criteria.

CIM Students Help With ASCC Foundation Research

ASCC friend and co-chair of our ASCC/ACI Joint Committee, Dr. Kenneth C. Hover, Ph.D., P.E., Dist.M.ASCE, was recently named a Distinguished Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). This is the highest honor to which a civil engineer can aspire. In the Society’s 163-year history only 679 people have been elected to the honor. Hover is recognized for his research on concrete properties and performance, most notably for researching the freeze-thaw resistance of high-strength concrete and educating and mentoring future structural engineers.

He is currently a professor at Cornell University, where he has supervised 26 doctoral and master’s theses in addition to 16 master of Engineering projects. His publication of a series of practical articles on obtaining and maintaining air-entrained concrete have become classic references for engineers in developing specifications and in troubleshooting. Hover has made specific contributions to the development of ACI 301-Specifications for Concrete and has worked to create a stronger link between ACI 301 and the ACI 318-Building Code for Structural Concrete, and is a Past-President of the American Concrete Institute.

Dr. Ken Hover Named Distinguished Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers

How do you meet specifications for a concrete slab that will be polished? This article describes the means and methods used on over 100 slabs that were subsequently polished. These recommendations will assist concrete contractors in providing the polishing contractor with a floor that he can polish and that will impress the owner! This article will be available at the ASCC Annual Conference in Minneapolis.

Webinars begin at 3:00 p.m. CST

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