As the end of the year approaches, I am taking the opportunity to look back and be grateful for 2018’s positive events. The relationships I continue to forge through ASCC are on the list. Many years ago, when I first considered joining ASCC, a current member advised that what I got out of belonging to ASCC would be in proportion to the effort I was willing to invest in the association. That member was correct and then some. I have gained far more from the people I have met at ASCC than I have ever put in. Like compounding interest, my incremental contributions have yielded more than I expected. ASCC and its collection of concrete professionals at every level have allowed me to continue to learn. My admiration for my competitors has greatly increased. I still end up on the losing end far more than I prefer, but my respect for the winners has grown.

The future of construction will be radically different than we know it. All the hard thinkers advise that disruption is ahead. They warn of issues like artificial intelligence and machine learning that I only vaguely understand. At some point in the not too distant future, designs will improve rapidly, and the builder’s role will be radically different. What we do and are currently good at will change and for some of us, those changes will be significant. Those of us unwilling or slow to change will most likely see our market share diminish.

One thing I don’t think will go away will be the strength of ASCC. In the times of radical change, we will need each other at least as much, if not more than the present. Together, we might figure out how to get more designers and contractors to work collaboratively; same for general contractors working collaboratively with subcontractors, since we have both as strong members. The good news is that there will be tremendous opportunity during the disruption. There is so much waste in the current form of contracting that whoever figures it the soonest will have the advantage.

My money is on ASCC members being near the front.

Executive Director’s Message

I thought I would go back through the Executive Committee minutes and make a list of major accomplishments for 2018. It’s important to remember, however, that what counts is not the achievement itself, but the impact the achievement has, or will have, on our members. For example, we launched three new MIX Groups this year. That means 15 new companies are now experiencing the benefit of the best practices of their fellow contractors; maybe XYZ Concrete won’t have to make that mistake, because he heard what happened when ABC Concrete went down that road.

Industry Calendar

World of Concrete
Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV
January 22 – 25, 2019

ACI Spring Convention
Quebec City Convention Center, Quebec City, Quebec, CANADA
March 24 – 28, 2019

Committee Week
ASCC Headquarters, St. Louis, MO
April 29 – May 1, 2019

Concrete Executive Leadership Forum
Ocean Reef Club, Key Largo, FL
July 18 – 21, 2019

Annual Conference
Westin Chicago Northwest, Chicago, IL
September 19 – 22, 2019

Welcome New Members

C.B.X., Inc., Riley, MI
Custom Service Hardware, Cedarburg, WI
Flooring Services, Inc., Livonia, MI
Fulmer Concrete Construction, Chattanooga, TN
LongCrete, Argyle, TX
PB Safety Services, Las Vegas, NV
Continuing along those lines:

**Director of Safety Services** – In February we hired Joe Whiteman, formerly with Morley and Turner, as our first DSS. Our members now have one person dedicated to answering their safety and insurance questions. We’ll soon have a company safety audit option where Joe can do onsite inspections to evaluate members’ safety programs.

ACI 310 Decorative Concrete is now **ACI/ASCC 310, a joint committee**. Along with our name appearing on all 310 documents going forward, we have a larger investment in the guidelines and specifications that are produced by the group.

The Concrete Polishing Council developed its first strategic plan as the CPC. The goals focus on certification and helping members have and use the member benefits they need to be successful contractors.

The Technical Committee had three articles, one a cover story, published in ACI’s Concrete International. They are “Constructability of Embedded Steel Plates in Cast-in-Place Concrete” (September), “Designing for Constructability – ADA Surface Accessibility” (November) and “Constructability of Post-Tensioning Anchors in Shear Walls” (December). In addition to providing excellent information for members who do this work, we gain prestige and credibility by having contractors author CI articles.

**Annual Conference attendance increased by 20%** over last year. 20% more individuals from member companies took advantage of the networking opportunities, seminars, and the demonstrations to make their lives easier and their companies more productive.

In conjunction with our involvement with ACI/ASCC Joint Committee 117 Tolerances, we held **two events on laser scanning**: an introductory workshop at World of Concrete, and a reproducibility/repeatability testing event this fall. Select members were able to voice their opinions and concerns on this relatively new technology, then share data that’s being compiled to measure accurateness of the men and machines. A third workshop, to process and discuss the data, is scheduled for WOC 2019.

As the culmination of a year of celebrating the Decorative Concrete Council’s 20th anniversary, the DCC and our Manufacturers’ Advisory Council joined forces on a **$250,000 community project** for the Warner Unified School District in San Diego County, CA. First and foremost, members received the gratification of giving time and resources to help a school that needed a facelift and more. For those who provided the actual labor, it was a tremendous educational and networking experience as well.

ASCC contracted with a certification consultant to, at long last, develop a company certification for concrete contractors. Chaired by Wahid Tadros, the **new Certification Committee** has made great strides in outlining what this process will look like.

ASCC partnered with the Construction Employers Association (CEA) to provide **silica sampling products and services**, as well as access to a variable-based, searchable CEA Database, comprised of the laboratory silica sampling results entered by contractors. Members receive the testing products at a reduced cost and can use the database to benchmark their results.

The ACI Strategic Development Council (SDC) has adopted **five of the seven targets of the Concrete 2029 program** as its strategic plan. This initiative, whose genesis was the ASCC strategic plan, now includes the overall concrete industry, and the topics of productivity, quality, durability, and technical operating system will be dissected in a Roadmap for Progress that will benefit not only ASCC members but the entire industry.

**2017 W. Burr Bennett Award for Safety Excellence – Shiel Sexton (GC Category)**

Shiel Sexton was founded in 1962 and provides high-quality general contracting and construction management services. They serve commercial, educational, healthcare, public works, science and technology building sectors, throughout the United States. With regional offices in Indianapolis, IN and Charlotte, NC, Shiel Sexton has 250 full-time management employees and 152 full-time field employees (112 employees are dedicated to the Concrete Division). In addition to the Concrete Division, Shiel Sexton has a Craftsmen Division, BAM Rents, and S3 (their commercial property management team).

What is one of the most important characteristics of a successful company? Answer: good communication. Shiel Sexton has embraced that characteristic. Shiel Sexton employees are encouraged to be proactive about safety so, if an employee sees something unsafe, they speak up and it gets corrected. A trained employee is a more successful employee and Shiel Sexton understands that as well. All employees are trained, regardless of their job title, in all aspects of their job description. Shiel Sexton offers over 25 different courses that are offered during the year in many different locations. Training takes place at the main office and on-site at projects. Trainers and programs are completely mobile.
Every Shiel Sexton employee must complete their Core 9 training (which includes excavation, fall protection, fire protection, ladders and stairs, material handling, power tools, personal protective equipment, scaffolding, and silica awareness/compliance). Employees are also offered certifications for First Aid/CPR, Aerial Work Platforms, Powered Industrial Trucks, and Powder-Actuated Tools.

When it came to Shiel Sexton’s submittal for the 2017 Burr Bennett Award, a few things stood out to the judges:

- Their application was the most complete and organized, per submission instructions.
- No lost time incidents or OSHA citations in the past 3 years.
- Their training program is robust, convenient, and available to all employees.
- Weekly training is held and can be attended in person or virtually.
- Each employee receives a documented performance review.

Congratulations to Shiel Sexton for being chosen to receive the 2017 Burr Bennett Award for General Contractor Safety Excellence!

**ANSI/ISEA 121-2018 American National Standard for Dropped Object Prevention Solutions**

Joe Whiteman, Director of Safety Services

This summer I wrote about the hazard of dropped objects and tools and the development of a voluntary consensus standard that was well in the formal review process. To recap the genesis of this voluntary standard, the hazard of being struck by falling tools and objects takes several hundred lives per year, as well as injuring thousands more. This is even after implementing controls like nets and toe boards, as well as utilizing proper PPE. Thus, this new standard, to work towards reducing such exposures. Developed by the International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA), along with the American National Safety Institute (ANSI), it is now a voluntary consensus standard: ANSI/ISEA-121-18.

So what is a voluntary consensus standard? ISEA, a professional association that represents safety equipment manufacturers and ANSI, a private organization that helps develop consensus standards for products in the U.S., have no enforcement authority. Basically, they provide guidelines and testing requirements for manufacturers. However OSHA can, and will cite companies referencing ANSI and other consensus standards through letters of interpretation and the General Duty Clause. This provides OSHA an avenue to cite companies referencing this voluntary standard and the equipment addressed within.

Four categories of equipment are addressed in ANSI/ISEA 121-18: Anchor Attachments, Tool Attachments, Tool Tethers and Containers. The standard does not address proper use of this equipment, or which tools should be tethered and when. It does, however, provide the formal dividing line on what should and should not be acceptable means of tethering tools and equipment. This standard brings with it a formalized approach to utilize and implement proper equipment and best practices on the jobsite to mitigate dropped tool and object hazards.

Gone are the days of using tie wire and duct tape to secure tools, and relying solely on PPE and passive protection measures such as toe boards and nets that protect only after something is dropped. This works towards mitigating the potential of a dropped tool or object before something happens. Proper anchors, attaching tethers to tools and containers to control loose material, help workers remove the potential of dropped objects and tools while working at heights; a commonly overlooked exposure.

**ASCC Hosts Second Laser Scanning Workshop for Concrete Construction Tolerances**

Bruce Suprenant, Technical Director

The American Society of Concrete Contractors (ASCC), will hold a second Laser Scanning Workshop on Concrete Tolerances, Monday, January 21, 2019, from 8 a.m.—5 p.m. in Las Vegas, NV, at the Westgate Hotel, in conjunction with the World of Concrete. Dr. Bruce Suprenant, PhD, PE, FACI, CSI: CCCA, CCS, technical director of the ASCC, is the workshop coordinator.

The workshop is by invitation only and is limited to 50 individuals. General and concrete contractors, manufacturers of laser scanning equipment, scanning processing companies, and others in the industry will present and discuss 3D laser scanning for concrete tolerances.

The morning will feature presentations on separate topics while the afternoon will be devoted to working groups discussing best practices. The objective is to develop content for a draft of the ACI-ASCC 117 committee’s new document on “Guide to 3D Laser Scanning for Concrete Tolerances.”

Featured this year will be a discussion of the laser scanning data obtained at an ASCC sponsored laser scanning repeatability and reproducibility event that involved eight companies. Those participants will discuss their best practices for 3D laser scanning for concrete tolerances.
Proposed ACI-ASCC 117 Document

Guide to Using Laser Scanning for Concrete Tolerances

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HOT LINE QUESTIONS

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CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION

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

Webinars begin at 3:00 p.m. CST

Jan. 16, 2019  Challenges with Exterior Concrete in Freeze Thaw Environment  Chris Tull, CRT Concrete Consulting

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