Message from the Executive Committee

Kevin Riley, Executive Committee

As I sat down to write this article, filled to the brim with turkey, mashed potatoes, and all the trimmings, I started to reflect on the season we are in and what it truly means to all of us. More importantly, the bigger question was why it takes a certain season, date, occasion, or day of the year for us to be truly thankful for all we have, and more specifically, the reason or reasons, we have those things to be thankful for.

At the core of our industry, amongst all the concrete, reinforcing, equipment and formwork, is one key element I think we need to be thankful for above all else: our people. Those men and women are the backbone and the lifeblood of our industry. Those carpenters, rodmen, laborers, operators, and finishers who execute the plan or plans the project team has laid out with them to achieve a successful project. They do this day in and day out in the heat, cold, wind, rain, all while dealing with -- at best -- intermittent changes to the plan, and a perishable project that has a limited shelf life, or truck life, if you will.

I’m as guilty as anyone of getting stuck in the day to day of contracts, schedules, budgets, changes, pour dates, manpower, paperwork, etc. All while neglecting to stop and think about and or thank those who ultimately provide us the opportunity to do what we do. All while trusting that we are executing our plan for landing the next project.

The most ironic thing about making an intentional effort to thank anyone for a job well done is that it doesn’t have to be a momentous or monumental feat. Just a simple email, text, phone call, handshake, or pat on the back will do for most to make them feel recognized and appreciated. John D. Rockefeller had a saying, “Take my oil wells, take my land, take away everything I use to make money, but leave me my people and I will be back in business tomorrow.”

As an industry we are stronger together. We must maintain that strength in order to grow our industry. One way to keep that strength is by being intentionally thankful not just once a year, when the calendar says so, or at the closeout of a successful project, but every day. I would challenge each and every person who reads this to commit to intentionally thanking one person a day for a task they are doing well, even if it is part of their normal duties, and see if it doesn’t pay off in 2020.

Executive Director’s Message

Bev Garnant

ASCC New Initiatives

Flat Floor Awards – We will debut an awards program to recognize outstanding floor installations around the world, based on a wider profile and extended criteria from that of the Golden Trowels.

Paving Tool Kit – This resource from our ASCC/NRMCA Joint Paving Committee is available via the ASCC website to members and non-members alike. It includes paving brochures for design and construction assistance, information on illuminance and reflectivity, FAQs, documents on overlaying asphalt, ACI 330.2R-17 Concrete Site Paving, a pre-construction checklist for parking lot construction, NRMCA’s Design Assistance Program (DAP), a Guide to Concrete Trails (brand new) and much more.
CHALLENGES to Overcome In the Polishing Industry

This month I wanted to change it up a bit. This is not a challenge, it’s more like a great thing to be part of!

The WHO’S WHO of the CPC world.

In this last year as director I have had the privilege of sitting through many meetings for CPC and the ASCC board. When I look around to those in attendance it blows me away that the members who get involved, join, volunteer, work for our industry is crazy.
Speaking of just the CPC, the members who work hard to push the CPC forward are an amazing bunch. Manufacturers, chemical companies, polishing contractors, engineers, concrete contractors, concrete finishing/placement teams. These are frankly some of the best companies around, and they give up valuable time from their own interests to help educate GCs, owners, and architects and to create Position Statements that can help polishers get through challenges for the better of our industry.

Ever have a problem on a job? With your diamonds? Your machine? A chemical application? A vacuum issue? How to handle slurry? How to use a machine properly? Want to learn new techniques? Want to get polisher certified? All I do is look around the group who dedicates themselves to this organization and ask a question, make a call, send a text and get that answer I need. For example, because of my relationship with someone I was able to text a VP of a chemical company the other day and got a reply after hours, I’m so appreciative of his time and knowledge and the relationship we have gain over the years. (He knows who he is!) This includes the team at ASCC headquarters who are there to guide you through the process.

The resources are endless… become an active member, join a committee, come to meetings, get involved all this can be yours with a little effort. Because this is the who’s who of the Concrete Polishing Industry right here in front of you. CPC: We are your friends; educators, manufacturers and installers in the polishing industry.

**Making Economical Cents Out of ACI 301 WWR Requirements**

**Background:** ACI 117 has never specified tolerances for welded wire reinforcement (WWR), stating in the Mandatory Requirements Checklist that “tolerances for fabrication, placement, and lap splices for welded wire reinforcement must be specified by the Specifier.” Without WWR tolerances in ACI 117, ACI 301 in the 2016 version included tolerances for wire sizes of W4.0 or D4.0 and larger, and support spacing not to exceed 12 in. for wire size less than W4.0 or D4.0. An article in ACI Concrete International (September 2006) by Joseph Neuber, “Support Requirements for Welded-Wire Reinforcement in Slabs”, served as the basis for the support requirement of 12 in. or less for smaller wire sizes.

**Challenge:** For many years contractors used the WWR support spacing recommended by the Wire Reinforcement Institute (WRI) of 2 to 3 ft. or less for wire sizes less than W4.0 or D4.0 and 2 to 6 ft. for larger wire sizes. There is a considerable price difference in using support spacing required by ACI 301 versus that recommended by WRI. In addition, many engineers, contractors and owners are not aware of the ACI 301 WWR requirements. This leads to confusion in bidding and enforcement. Finally, there is still the misconception that WWR prevents cracking, which leads to arguments and unnecessary repairs.

**Savvy choices:** Many ASCC concrete contractors are excluding the ACI 301 WWR support spacing requirements in their bids. This allows them to be competitive with other contractors who are unaware of this provision and also allows them to discuss the WWR needs and intent with the designer. A concrete contractor on a recent project where WWR, 6 x 6 W2.9xW2.9, was specified for a composite steel deck concrete slab, excluded the ACI 301 WWR provision in his bid. The design team asked the concrete contractor for a price to conform to ACI 301 WWR support spacing of 12 in. The resulting price increase was $30,000. But the contractor also provided the engineer with another option, increasing the WWR from 6 x 6-W2.9xW2.9 to 6 x 6 – W4.0xW4.0 which only cost $3,200.

As part of this discussion, the engineer also considered what placement tolerance was needed and increased the WWR placement tolerance which still met the design objective.

**Reasonable solution:** How does the owner benefit more—$30,000 of supports or $3,200 of increased steel that controls cracking? WRI lists common small wire sizes as 1.4, 2.0 and 2.9, but in light of the ACI 301 WWR requirements, these should not be specified. Put the money into an owner benefit—crack control, and increase the wire size to at least 4.0. That is the only solution that makes economical cents with the current ACI 301 WWR requirements.

**Safety & Risk Management Council**

**Wishing You a Safe Holiday Season**

As we get ready to welcome a new year, we must not let our guard down when it comes to safety. As you strive to be a good steward of safety and ensure safe work behavior is the focus, it’s important to remember that accidents don’t stop when you walk off the jobsite. I want to take this opportunity to remind us all not to lose focus on safety at home during this holiday season.

Did you know that between 2013 – 2017 the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) stated that fire departments responded to an average 160 home fires caused by a Christmas tree? Those fires caused an average of three deaths and 15 injuries, along with millions of dollars in property damage each year. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimated that last year there were 14,700 holiday decorating related emergency room treated injuries. That works out to over 200 injuries each day for November, December and half of January. Of those injuries, falls accounted for nearly half, followed by lacerations and back strains. There were also three deaths from falling from a ladder while decorating.
As we celebrate the holidays and welcome the new year, we need to stay focused and watch out not only for your own safety, but for your family and others. To help with that, use the tips below as reminders.

- Keep real trees fresh by watering regularly.
- Ensure artificial trees are “Fire Resistant”; check the label to be sure.
- Avoid putting breakable or smaller ornaments on the lower branches of the tree to keep away from small children.
- Some plants may be poisonous to small children and animals such as poinsettias, mistletoe and holly berries. Keep them out of reach.
- Keep decorations and combustibles at least three feet from a heat source like the fireplace or space heater.
- Turn off interior lit decorations before going to sleep or when you leave your home.
- Don’t overload extension cords or sockets when powering Christmas lights.
- Never run cords under carpet or area rugs.
- Ensure exterior Christmas lights and extension cords are in good condition. Invest in new LED Christmas lights.
- Use ladders correctly and ensure they are set on level, stable ground.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in your kitchen.
- Turn pan handles towards the back of the range.
- Never use flour or water to put out a pan fire.
- Fry your turkey at a safe distance of 10 ft. from combustible materials/structures. Keep children and pets away.
- Lower the turkey in the fryer slowly and be sure to overfill the oil in your turkey fryer.
- Leave earlier than usual to reach destinations, as there are more people on the road.
- Never drink and drive. Use a designated driver, Uber, Lyft or taxi.
- If you are gifting a bicycle, scooter or some form of a riding toy, be sure to include appropriate safety gear.

**Member Retirement**

After more than 50 years in the construction industry, mostly spent in commercial concrete, ASCC member Bob Rininger, MK Concrete Construction, will retire at the end of 2019. For the last 22 years, Bob has been the general manager of MK Concrete Construction, and a vice president of Morgan-Keller, Inc. for the last 20 years.

We have enjoyed working with Bob over the years. We congratulate him and wish him well in the years to come.

After 2019, Bob’s contact information will be:
Email: bobandrenae@verizon.net
Cell Phone: (301) 748-1238

**HOT LINE QUESTIONS**

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<td>844-923-4678</td>
<td>833-281-9602</td>
<td>888-483-5288</td>
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ASCC members have access to these toll-free numbers for assistance.

**Webinars begin at 3:00 p.m. CST**

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<td>Constructability: The Key to a Successful Project Between the Engineer and the Contractor</td>
<td>Mike Schneider, Baker Concrete Construction, Inc.</td>
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<td>Danny Barrera, Concrete Marketing Crew</td>
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Members no charge. Non-members $35; MC, Visa, Amex only. Call 866-788-2722 to register.