President’s Message

It’s time to get 2016 kicked off! I write this month’s message preparing for the ASCC functions that will take place at the World of Concrete the first week of February. Attending these functions is a perfect opportunity to start my new year off in a positive way.

During World of Concrete week, we have a board of directors meeting and our Annual Meeting of the Members. In addition, we have multiple council and committee meetings. Committees that meet during the week include our Decorative Concrete Council, Safety and Risk Management Council, Manufacturers Advisory Council, Paving Committee, Emerging Leaders Committee, and our Annual Conference Committee. Each of these will be advancing the goals of our strategic plan and planning events for the coming year.

In addition, we have a committee that will be meeting for the first time, our newly formed Finishing Subcommittee. This subcommittee, under the oversight of the Technical Committee, was the brainchild of a few who are passionate about addressing industry issues related to concrete finishing operations. I would like to thank Steve Lloyd and Ward Malisch, in particular, for getting this group going. I’m sure with the broad base of knowledge of our committee members this will be an effective addition to the portfolio that helps make us the leading organization for concrete contractors.

Last I want to mention our annual Kick Off Bash on Monday night; one of the best opportunities to network all year. Did I mention over 400 attendees? All facets of our industry will be represented including contractors, manufacturers, suppliers, engineers….to name a few. Consider attending some of these gatherings. I look forward to seeing you there and discussing whatever topic we care to cover.

Executive Director’s Message

Let’s Practice What We Preach

One of ASCC’s five core values, is, as you might imagine, Safety.

It reads like this: Safety – Promote zero tolerance for unsafe practices; model and share best practices.

As ASCC members, many of you will soon have the opportunity to model best safety practices on an international stage at the World of Concrete. Whether you’re setting up or working a booth, presenting or watching a live demonstration, or simply walking the floor, opportunities will undoubtedly arise for you to speak up for a safe practice over an unsafe one. Will you do it?
Led by ASCC and supported by the other concrete organization attendees, safety was a major topic of discussion at last year’s WOC co-sponsor meeting. On behalf of the DCC we spoke about the Artistry in Concrete demo/display area, where unsafe practices were rampant. WOC officials have since eliminated Artistry for 2016. We also discussed a need for better direction and oversight of safety practices throughout the show. To what extent our concerns were heard, we’re not yet sure. Members of our Safety & Risk Management Council board will be taking note of safety violations they see this year, so we might be more specific in addressing our concerns with show management.

You can do the same. If you see a potentially dangerous situation, call it to the attention of whoever is in charge. You may prevent an accident or injury. Safety isn’t only a priority on our company jobsites. It should be in the forefront of our personal and business lives always. As a cosponsor of the show, and representatives of ASCC, let’s make our presence and our priorities known.

**Decorative Concrete Council**

**Carnac – The Decorative Concrete Specialist**

I hold in my hand the envelopes that have been hermetically sealed. They’ve been kept in a mason jar in the back of the ASCC office refrigerator for 12 months with a few other science projects we will address later. No one knows the contents of these envelopes, but I, in my borderline divine and mystical way, will ascertain the answers, having never before seen the questions.

Answer #1 – **6 inches, 4 hours.** The Question – What amount of rain will fall during the two attempts at this year’s community project, and how much actual work time will be available based on the weather over the course of two weeks. Yes, we will attempt the project a third time -- February 29th – March 4 near Seneca, SC. Please help if you can.

Answer #2 – **People wearing big foam hats, and Cinnamon Rivers** – The Question – Name the real and imaginary characters you’ll meet and befriend when attending an ASCC Annual Conference. Members of the ASCC miss out on our #1 resource, networking, when they don’t attend the conferences and additional gatherings offered. Our members are not only the leaders and pillars of the industry, they willingly share their successes and failures with their fellow members.

Answer #3A - **Sis! Boom! Bah!** - The Question – The sound of the ASCC staff and leader Bev cheering on and leading the membership at all times. We appreciate what they do for all our companies in both prosperous and lean times.

With reverence to Johnny Carson. Answer #3B – **Sis! Boom! Bah!** - The Question - Name the sound made when a sheep explodes.

Wishing everyone a schedule filled with profitable projects this year!

**Safety & Risk Management Council**

While all of the finalists were praiseworthy and very deserving, the winner of this year’s **W. Burr Bennett Award for Safety Excellence** in the **Specialty Contractor** category was **Keystone Structural Concrete, LLC** (Keystone) of Houston, Texas.

**Keystone’s safety metric results that stood out were:**

- A Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) well below industry average
- No lost workday cases for the past year
- No OSHA citations for the past three years
- A Workers Compensation EMR significantly lower than the industry average
- Incident rate continues to trend down, even as their man-hours trend up substantially

**Keystone’s safety program strategies that stood out were:**

- Strong commitment to safety and active participation from upper management, starting with the president
- Major emphasis on site specific safety planning before starting work, including actively involving the owner and general contractor when possible
- Innovative pre-task planning procedure with pocket cards. Individual crew members, not superintendents and foremen, lead the specific hazard analysis for that crew before starting that task.
- Strong use of statistical analysis to monitor TRIR progress and trends

Keystone’s clear commitment to safety leadership and partnering with their workers has produced outstanding results and made them an excellent choice for the 2015 W. Burr Bennett Award.
On Sunday, January 31, 2016, the inaugural meeting of the ASCC Flatwork Finishing Subcommittee will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Room N206 in the North Hall of the Las Vegas Convention Center. Formation of this subcommittee of the ASCC Technical Committee was approved by the Board of Directors at the 2015 Annual Conference. Co-chairs are Steve Lloyd (Lloyd Concrete Services) and David Somero (S & S Concrete Floors). Ward Malisch is the ASCC staff contact.

Several ASCC activities cover concrete finishing. Examples include producing and updating the finishing video, organizing and supervising finisher training and certification at the World of Concrete, and serving on the ACI Certification Committee in charge of finisher certification programs. This subcommittee will take on these tasks to centralize activities pertaining to finishing and put them in the hands of subject-matter experts. This committee will liaison with other ASCC committees including the Education and Training and Technical Committees, to keep them aware of the Finishing Subcommittee activities. In addition, this subcommittee will provide a forum for finishers to discuss problems, share solutions, and encourage participation on ACI certification committee C640 and technical committees such as ACI 301, Specifications; ACI 302, Floor Construction; ACI 305, Hot Weather Concreting; ACI 306, Cold Weather Concreting; and ACI 308, Curing.

Suggested activities in addition to those mentioned above include generating ideas for ASCC Position Statements and White Papers on concrete finishing issues. In addition to contractors, other members of the committee will represent concrete producers, equipment manufacturers, consultants, and admixture manufacturers. Visitors are welcome. If you are interested contact Ward Malisch or Bruce Suprenant.

ASCC is also presenting two ACI Flatwork Finisher certifications:

- ACI Concrete Flatwork Finisher/Technician Certification
  - Review seminar on Wednesday, Feb 3 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
  - Written examination on Thursday, Feb 4 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

- ACI Specialty Commercial/Industrial Concrete Flatwork Finisher/Technician Certification
  - Review seminar on Monday, Feb 1 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
  - Written examination on Tuesday, Feb 2 from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm
  - Performance examination on Tuesday, Feb 2 from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm

An employee was injured while chipping a concrete pedestal using a 15-pound chipping gun. While chipping overhead in tight quarters from a scaffold platform, a large chunk of concrete broke loose and struck the employee on the top of his left foot, causing contusions.

Contributing Factors:

The employee was performing the task from a small scaffold situated slightly under the overhang of the pedestal, allowing for debris to fall at his feet. Due to the confined work area, there was no room for the employee to move out of the line of fire as the concrete fell.

Employee was wearing safety toed shoes at the time, but was not wearing metatarsal guards. Metatarsal guards are only required when operating 60 or 90 lb breakers near the feet of the operator; not when operating 15 or 30 lb chipping guns.

Corrective Actions/Lesson Learned:

Following the incident review, the team recommended the following corrective actions:

- Utilization of metatarsal guards when potential for line-of-fire or falling debris injuries.
- Promote recognition of this type of hazard through communication of a safety alert so effective protection can be developed during the JSA, such as use of metatarsal guards, or adjustment of work platform or process

Concrete Finishing Activities at World of Concrete 2016

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Near Hit events shared courtesy of the Safety & Risk Management Council to help other members prevent accidents and injuries. If you have a Near Hit that could help your fellow contractors send Bev a brief write-up at bgarnant@ascconline.org. We will not identify your company unless asked to do so.
As a non-profit education foundation, the goal of the Concrete Preservation Institute (CPI) is to guide young adults who may not have otherwise considered the concrete industry as a career, and provide them with the knowledge and job skills to become strong interns or employee candidates for management or skilled trade positions. Our proud product is well-trained people for our industry with the happy additional outcome of helping preserve our National Historic Landmark structures and infrastructure.

In addition to our existing Field School on Alcatraz Island, the CPI is working on launching an additional Field School location in another part of the U.S. I cannot reveal the location yet, but look forward to sharing information soon about this highly significant National Landmark site that we could all be proud to support.

While we are constantly busy improving the Alcatraz program and expanding to new locations, we always need help in getting the word out to potential applicants, including the upcoming Spring 2016 Alcatraz session set to begin February 9th, for which we have open positions. We focus on accepting military veterans but also welcome students and other young adult applicants over the age of 18. Through generous support from industry companies, associations, and individuals, we are able to offer this training free to veterans and support them with needed cash stipends. Fees and other information can be found on our website. We always welcome sponsorships for applicants who may be encouraged to return to their home state to seek employment.

Although I realize the need of nearly every company to hire people now, sending someone to be trained by CPI for 12 weeks is a wise, long term investment in helping build a sustainable pipeline of well-trained future employees; people who have found and embraced their passion for our industry by learning, while helping preserve our country’s concrete cultural treasures.

Please share this information with anyone who might be interested in applying (online application on our website) or by becoming a CPI sponsor or donor. We couldn’t maintain our record of successful participant training and job placement without the grass-roots marketing and financial, in-kind, and other support of companies, associations, and individuals like you and yours. Visit our website – cpi.foundation.org – call or email 530-514-4341, tkomas@cpi-foundation.org to discuss how to get involved.

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**Correction**

Our apologies to Roberta Yoder, Yoder Concrete Construction, LLC, whom we identified in last month’s *Voice* as Rebecca.