"Tax Cuts": Will They Last and What Should We Do with Them?

As business managers or owners I would think most of us are appreciative of the fact that our check to the Internal Revenue Service is expected to be less next year than in prior years; a result of the corporate tax rate decreasing significantly and the top personal income tax rate being lowered a couple percentage points. It appears most of us, including our hardworking tradesmen, will be keeping a bit more of the money we earn from this challenging business of constructing the built environment.

I am certainly supportive of this long awaited tax reform. And while there could have been much more in the way of simplifying the code, it is a step in the right direction toward making the US Tax Code something which a common person can comprehend. Yet there are still many loopholes within the code which are not only complex, but which also create unnecessary, and sometimes unhelpful, tax plays.

We plan to use our future corporate tax savings to expand our employee compensation/benefits. I suspect many others will do the same to the benefit of those men and women doing the great work at our jobsites across this country. Businesses both large and small, specifically all members of ASCC, have been the primary job creators and risk takers, shoring up our economy for decades. Whether it be the shareholders of a C-Corp or the family business owners of a closely held contractor, these important economic drivers of the local economies deserve a fair tax structure which will take less of their hard earned profits. A large portion of the dollars saved in taxes will work their way back through the system through increased wages and significant investment in new equipment or technology.

We should make certain the elected officials hear from us to thank them for this reform. The battle lines are already forming for the next election where those who refuse to acknowledge that business owners have for too long paid many times their fair share, will be seeking to roll this reform back. I expect they may adopt a “Repeal the Corporate Welfare” approach in an effort to appeal to the masses. Let’s be sure we don’t get behind the curve on this and find ourselves with a short lived tax relief, instead of a long term tax strategy to grow our economy while controlling federal spending.

Did I say control government spending? I must have been day dreaming! Work Safely!

Executive Director’s Message

Don’t get me wrong, we like it when you pay your dues; ASCC wouldn’t exist without them. But it’s your time that we really value. Those of you who volunteer your time to ASCC: to serve on a committee, help on a community project, write a newsletter article, answer the Safety Hotline, suggest a solution via the email forum, send in a project for a social media post, facilitate a roundtable, mentor a fellow member, or work the booth at World of Concrete; these are the members we absolutely cannot live without. These are the people who lift this organization to the heights it’s achieved, and continue to make it better. We salute you for the time and effort you put into making ASCC the best of the best.

I have to add, however, that these people realize something that those who have not yet volunteered may fail to see. There are solid rewards that come from giving your time to ASCC. Those of you who serve on a committee or help on a community project have the opportunity to build lasting relationships, enhance your professional network, and gain valuable leadership experience.

Welcome New Members

Mid America Concrete Surfacing, Lee’s Summit, MO
MJ Hughes Construction, Vancouver, WA
Pristine Concrete, Paso Robles, CA
RedBuilt, Boise, ID
Spray-Lock Concrete Protection LLC, Chattanooga, TN
Terrazzo Masters, Metairie, LA
time. You meet and thus interact with more members. These members all have experiences and information that could be helpful to your business. You’re going to meet more, see more, hear more, do more that will make you work smarter, save money and make your life easier. Most likely a worthwhile trade off. And speaking of working the booth at WOC, we could use more of you… see the enclosed signup sheet.

**Decorative Concrete Council 20th Anniversary**

This year’s World of Concrete Kick Off Bash will mark the start of the 20th Anniversary of the DCC. It’s only appropriate that the theme of the event is *50 Shades of (Everything But) Grey*, as the early days of decorative concrete were a little edgy, and made some people a little uncomfortable. It took individuals to step away from grey, flat concrete to color it, or texture it to get started, but it took an organization to make it relevant. So this anniversary is not about the pioneering individuals, but instead about the group, or, as historic Michigan football coach Bo Schembechler said “It’s about the TEAM, as no man is more important than the TEAM.”

When formed, the DCC focus and mission took some time to be developed and recognized which was to be expected, but there is no doubt in my mind that it is now THE voice of the contractors that participate in the decorative concrete industry. As an individual contractor it is tough to sway an architect or engineer that your method or system of altering concrete to look like something else will work, but the ability to call on peers and specialists to back your position will typically result in successful recognition of your insight. As with any alliance, the more influential partners we have in our association, the more legitimate our actions and mission will become. The 20th Anniversary is a milestone to be recognized and celebrated, but the evolution and relevancy of this group will continue for decades. Congratulations DCC!

**Safety & Risk Management Council**

Janet Stanton, SRMC Past President

**SPOTLIGHT ON KOLDE CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION**

**2016 W. BURR BENNETT SAFETY AWARD WINNER (SPECIALTY CONTRACTOR)**

Northeast Kansas is home to Kolde Concrete Construction, a family-owned and operated company committed to meeting and exceeding the expectations of their clients with innovative solutions and exceptional quality, performed in a safe work environment. That safe environment protects their most important asset – their employees.

As we all know, things aren’t what they used to be…when you’re talking construction safety…but that’s a good thing! Protective gear, safety requirements and regulations are forever changing and growing. Kolde has embraced that change, which has earned them the gratitude of their large work family; for their proactive approach to safety and health on their job sites and for their commitment to bringing family members home safely each day.

If you are hired by Kolde, your first day on the job consists of a new employee orientation, being issued your Personal Protective Equipment, and meeting with one of the owners to discuss what is required and expected of you regarding safety compliance. This is in addition to passing Kolde’s physical capabilities and drug screening tests.

OSHA 10, OSHA 30, and CPR/AED/First Aid training are offered to all employees and are required to advance within the company. The entire management team participates in job site visits and inspections and they encourage field employees to communicate any concerns about their work environment during those visits. Together, they work to develop best practices that will promote safe production.

When it came to Kolde’s submittal for the 2016 Burr Bennett Award, a few things stood out to the judges:

- Recordable injuries dropped from “7” in 2015 to “0” in 2016.
- Their EMR went down steadily over the last 3 consecutive years and is below the industry average.
- They haven’t been cited by OSHA in the last 3 years. This was confirmed on OSHA’s website.
- They received the Acuity Insurance Contractor Safety Award for their excellent safety record as it related to their Workers Compensation experience. The interesting part…Acuity was NOT Kolde’s insurance carrier BUT they still won the award!

Kolde believes in trying to get better every day. Congratulations to Kolde Concrete Construction for winning the 2016 Burr Bennett Award for Specialty Contractor Safety Excellence! You didn’t just try, you succeeded!
ASCC Hosts Laser Scanning Workshop on Concrete Construction Tolerances

ASCC will hold a Laser Scanning Workshop on Cast-in-Place Concrete Tolerances in Pavilion 4 at the Westgate Hotel from 8a.m. - 5p.m. in Las, Vegas, in conjunction with the World of Concrete. Dr. Bruce Suprenant, PhD, PE, FACI, CSI: CCCA, CCS, technical director of ASCC, is the workshop coordinator.

The workshop is by invitation only. General and concrete contractors, manufacturers of laser screening equipment, scanning processing companies, and others in the industry will present and discuss 3D measurement, imaging, level of accuracy, repeatability and reproducibility along with recommended practices for presenting laser scanning data for tolerance compliance.

The morning will feature presentations on separate topics while the afternoon will be devoted to working groups to discuss recommended practices for laser scanning for concrete construction tolerances. The objective of this workshop is to create a recommended standard practice for laser scanning, data processing, data handling, and a data reporting summary that can be effectively used and understood by all parties in determining tolerance compliance for concrete construction.

ACI has provided preliminary approval for a technical session on this topic at its convention in Las Vegas in October 2018. ACI-ASCC 117 is considering developing a new document on “Recommended Practice for Laser Scanning for Cast-in-Place Concrete Construction Tolerances”. Philip Lorenzo of Rithm and Frank Salzano of CECO co-chair the ACI-ASCC 117 subcommittee on laser scanning.

The agenda for the Workshop is shown below.

Contact Bruce at bsuprenant@ascconline.org or 303-829-8546 for more information.
CIM Auction – Don’t Miss Out!

Register and Participate in The CIM Auction at World of Concrete

The 2018 CIM Auction will be held on Wednesday, January 24 during the 2018 World of Concrete in the North Hall Meeting Rooms of the Las Vegas Convention Center. The silent auction will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in room N263 and the live auction begins at 1 p.m. in room N262.

Participate in the annual auction by following the two easy steps below.

STEP 1
Use your cell phone and text CIM18 to 24700 and follow the instructions. This will give you access to the silent auction site, where beginning in early January you will be able to place bids on all of the items in the silent auction. This is how you will continue to bid on silent auction items through the event. This process will also pre-register you for the live auction. If you would prefer to register using your computer, visit CIM Auction Website for more information.

STEP 2
Beginning at 11am PST on the morning of the auction, come to room N263 and pick up your bid book for the live auction, at which time you will be provided with your bidder number. You will use this bidder number to bid on all of the items in the live auction (the phone app is not used for bidding on live auction items).