President’s Message

In 2011 I had the opportunity to attend my first ASCC Leadership Forum as a speaker. In the three days I spent at the event I was surprised at the knowledge and experience I gained from other members, solely from social interactions. This opportunity to share experiences with our industry peers is one of the main reasons we invest in employee attendance at key industry association events.

In talking with contractors from around the country one begins to realize the level of commonality that exists in the industry. We share a lot of the same challenges and experiences. Recently it doesn’t take long for the conversation to shift to labor availability.

In September of 2015, the President’s Message mentioned the development of a Universal Craftsman Certification Program through the Education and Training Committee. As this program has evolved, the focus has shifted from certification to a formal training program. At the 2016 Annual Conference a survey of the membership was conducted to analyze the need for a trades training program, as well as the need for training for each of the concrete trades. The results of the survey overwhelming confirmed that our member contractors are looking for a formal training program from ASCC in all of the concrete trades.

Over the course of the coming months, we will continue to develop the outline of what a training program will look like. The goal of the program will be to provide ASCC member organizations with the opportunity to continue with the development of quality trade resources, and improve the quality of our member organizations. If you have any thoughts or suggestions on training programs in our industry that would support our efforts please reach out to me.

Executive Director’s Message

ASCC is planning to hire a fulltime safety director in 2018. Though we are in good shape financially, filling a position like this is challenging. It requires debate and discussion. When we do this I believe we’ll be the only national organization in the cement/concrete industry to have someone serving in this capacity. Why are we doing it?

We constantly challenge our members to take the next step in safety, make the next move, commit to the next measure to make them safer. ASCC must do the same.

Steve Lloyd failed to wear his seat belt on a ride to the airport leaving the spring ACI Convention. His neck was broken when his taxi was rear-ended by a large truck. Chad Hymas, one of our 2017 CELF speakers...
was in a hurry to get home one evening. He ignored a hydraulic issue with the tractor he was using to lift a one-ton bale of hay. The hay bale rolled off the tractor arm and dropped fifteen feet, crushing his body, and leaving him a quadriplegic.

Our safety director most likely won’t be riding along with the next Steve or Chad, reminding them to be safe. It doesn’t work that way of course. He or she will, however, have the ability to engage more members, and to be more intentional, in conversations about their challenges and opportunities. Helping members one-on-one find their path to an outstanding safety culture.

As we evaluate the financial impact on our organization I’m thinking about something Chad Hymas said in his presentation at the Forum last week. “If you don’t change, life will change you.” ASCC continues to make the commitment to help its members change.

**Decorative Concrete Council**

**DCC/MAC Take On Community Project at Pearl Harbor**

August 7-11, members of ASCC’s Decorative Concrete Council (DCC) and Manufacturers’ Advisory Council (MAC) will travel to Hawaii for a community project installation at Pearl Harbor. An old sticker of the western Pacific, a centerpiece of the Pearl Harbor Visitors’ Center, will be replaced with a map created in decorative concrete.

DCC and MAC members will work in conjunction with soldiers from the Concrete Preservation Institute (CPI). The CPI Field School at Pearl Harbor is a U.S. Military Skills Program that preserves landmark structures and monuments while training active duty military service members for transition into civilian management careers and skilled trade jobs.

See the Volunteer and Sponsor forms included in this mailing for information on how you can help.

**DCC Community Project Receives Final Touch**

The final touch was recently installed at the Ken Caryl Veterans Monument in Littleton, CO, a DCC community project installed in Spring 2015. The plaque lists the names of all of the contributors, including the DCC and all our members who provided labor and materials. Chris Sullivan, DCC board member, was a member of the Veterans Monument Committee and managed the decorative concrete portion of the project for us.

https://www.ascconline.org/decorative-concrete-council/overview

**Decorative Aggregate Selection**

**Regional Considerations for Decorative Concrete**

I frequently talk about the benefits and pitfalls of social media and its place in our decorative concrete industry. My recent concern is the amount of information that is put out as fact, with no disclaimers, and those who use the advice without taking into consideration the specific conditions that existed around the process or project. Decorative concrete has many regional differences that must be considered for each project. My contracting years were primarily in Michigan, while my best friend in the industry was in Texas. We shared successes and failures, noting that often what worked for one did not work for the other. He would use dry release to color individual stones on stamped patterns, but if I did the same I would receive a call within six months of sealer falling off and taking the release with it. Sealers that worked to limit efflorescence in Michigan caused him fits in Texas. The point is that weather conditions, base materials, mix design, placement processes, all affect the outcome of a project. I applaud social media for ideas and knowledge that can be instantaneously shared, but I hope users are smart enough to verify before fully putting processes into practice that may hurt them down the road.
PEOPLE and BIM and SAFETY

PEOPLE are the most important asset companies and contractors have. Our number one goal is for our team members to go home to their families the same way they came to work. Through safety programs like pre-task plans, stretch & flex programs, tool box talks, plan-of-the-day discussions, safety lessons and more, we have built a strong safety culture. However, there is always room for improvement. As technology continues to change the way we build, we identify tools that will help us build in a more safe and effective manner.

The use of Building Information Modeling (BIM) is one of those tools. These models allow us to visualize, coordinate, collaborate, plan and virtually build a project before a shovel goes into the ground. The Virtual Design and Construction (VDC) team partners with project managers, superintendents, foremen and trades to “scrub” the drawings for safer, more productive ways to plan and build concrete projects. Those discussions take place while the model is being built, allowing RFIs to be sent earlier rather than when the project is well underway. Whether in pre-construction for a particular pursuit or upon an award, 3D models are a powerful tool which allow contractors to plan the work and work the plan to ensure predictable outcomes.

By building projects virtually, project teams can analyze and coordinate items such as concrete, rebar, formwork, embeds, anchor bolts, and layout points. Including these allows project teams to understand, visualize, and plan projects effectively and efficiently. In a traditional approach, all of the disciplines would not be integrated in a 3D environment. Integrating all aspects of the concrete in one model allows project teams to review projects holistically, not only for constructability purposes, but for safety as well. These models aid in visualizing and planning for things like crane radius and load restrictions, leading edges, life lines, handrail, holes or penetrations, rebar caps, formwork scaffolding, etc. Models also ensure that proper materials are used to reduce and/or eliminate hazards. Additionally, planning laydown areas or site logistics allow project teams to communicate daily activity, traffic, and general site plans.

By focusing on the INFORMATION in BIM, each pour, each detail can be discussed and reviewed. Each pour can be broken down into simple yet sophisticated pieces so it can be managed, analyzed and tracked. Each pour becomes its own piece in the larger puzzle. These pieces are reviewed as a team, dissecting each part and piece to ensure we understand all aspects will be executed safely, to the highest quality, on time and on budget. As many of us say...”A picture is worth a thousand words.” This is more than a picture – it is a powerful collaboration and communication tool that allows us to visualize, pre-plan, pre-order, and pre-fab the project prior to boots hitting the ground. This allows our team to do what they do best…BUILD SAFE.

ACI 134, New Constructability Committee, Features Jim Cornell as Chair

ACI has approved a chair of its new Constructability Committee; Jim Cornell, PE, general superintendent of The Beck Group. The Beck Group is a design-build company that has been in business for more than 100 years. In 1991, Cornell was named Superintendent of the Year by the American Subcontractors Association, Houston chapter. He received AGC Fort Worth committee chairman of the year in 1995 for the AGC training program. In 2013 he was named a Fellow by the American Concrete Institute (ACI). Jim teaches Concrete Core Skills for Beck University. Most of ASCC will recognize Jim for his outstanding leadership as past chair of ACI 301 Specifications. In addition, Jim is a member of other ACI committees: Tolerances, Construction Liaison, Hot Weather, Curing, Formwork, and the TAC Construction Standards Committee.

But enough about Jim! What about the new committee? Jim will need committee members with enthusiasm, knowledge and vision. What should this new committee tackle? What are the constructability issues that ASCC contractors see in construction? What about constructability of design? What is a constructability review: by a designer, or construction manager or concrete contractor? What responsibilities do the designer, construction manager and concrete contractor have with respect to constructability?

The new constructability committee, designated as ACI 134, was proposed by ACI’s Construction Liaison Committee (CLC). As chair of CLC, Bev Garnant was instrumental in getting the proposal approved at ACI for this committee. ACI 134 will have its first meeting at the ACI Anaheim Convention. The meeting will take place on Monday, October 16, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. in D-Castle C. I hope some of you will be able to attend. If not, send me your ideas for this new, exciting adventure!
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DECORATIVE CONCRETE
888-483-5288

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

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Sept. 20, 2017</td>
<td>Mass Concrete</td>
<td>Oscar Antommattei, Kiewit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 11, 2017</td>
<td>The Love/Hate Relationship Between the Polishing Contractor and the Floor Finisher</td>
<td>Bob Harris, Structural Services, Inc.</td>
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Members no charge. Non-members $35; MC, Visa, Amex only. Call 866-788-2722 to register.