I was going through my documents and found this article that I wrote for the DCC when I was the director in 2013. I am sharing it again because when I read it I realized what an amazing perspective it gives on what we as a group are able to do through ASCC. It is a reminder of how we are able to dramatically change and successfully influence our industry. We have grown and evolved in the way we do business, how we value safety, and most importantly for the decorative concrete industry, how we see ourselves. Congratulations to all of you that have become and continue to stay involved. We have come a long way in a short time. I can’t wait to see where we are in the next six years.

I have heard from some of my fellow decorative concrete contractors that when it comes to the hierarchy of concrete contractors we are lower on the totem pole than other types of contractors. They feel our counterparts that build buildings, build bridges, and create infrastructure, see what we do as less difficult, maybe frivolous. Can that be true? Having been in this industry for several years, I know it’s not true. We create the experience and are at the footprint of that building. We transform spaces from common to artistic using a utilitarian medium. We take an area of flatwork or walls and turn those spaces into educational, entertaining and inspirational experiences that last for years. Byron loves to tell the story of two driveways, one broom finish and the other the same broom finish with decorative saw-cuts; those driveways tell completely different stories. The challenge as decorative concrete contractors is to make sure that while we are creative, innovative and outside the box thinkers and artisans, we also need to be serious constructors, builders and business people. We should always follow through, be on time, and do what we say we’ll do. Safety should be number one all the time; hard hats, boots, safety glasses, safety vests. Dress professionally. Right or wrong, people judge you by the way you and your crews look when you show up at the job. Be the smartest person in the room; stay on top of trends, changes and innovations in our industry. Install only projects you know are going to wear and last. Don’t be pushed into a corner because you think you might lose a job, and install something you know will be a long term maintenance or repair problem. Sometimes it’s better to lose a project than own it the rest of your career. I am proud to be a decorative concrete contractor; I know I have one of the best jobs in our industry.

Welcome New Members
Abmech Acquisitions, LLC, West Homestead, PA
Alkus North America Hauppauge, NY (Rejoin)
Bon Tool, Gibsonia, PA (Rejoin)
C Wolfe Concrete, San Diego, CA
Dance Brothers, Linthicum, MD
Floorz, Denver, CO
Gioia Concrete Construction, Inc., Twinsburg, OH
Integ-Crete Construction, Fort Pierce, FL
JN Cornell Associates, LLC, Mansfield, TX
Julius Kaoz Construction Co., Leavenworth, KS
OPCMIA Local S26, Pittsburgh, PA
Palomino Plant USA Inc., Durham, NC
Ritz Safety (rejoin), Pompano Beach, FL (Rejoin)
Tech Sales, St. Paul, MN
Raffin Construction Co., Chicago, IL (Sustaining)
CHALLENGES: Company Procedures and Processes

How big is your company? How big do you want it to be? Do you have an office or work out of truck? Do you struggle with bad decisions from your workers? No matter what your answer to any of these questions you really should create a plan and procedure for all aspects of your business.

Structural concrete, polishing, or decorative work, you need procedures to help shape and train within your company. The challenge is the time to do this, but like all good things for your business you have to make the time. Procedures can be the backbone of a company that is planning to grow, hire more employees, or just trying to have consistency in their daily work lives. Procedures keep you on track, help to streamline processes, and save time in onboarding new hires. An employee may be saved from death or serious injury by following procedures. A new hire can read all your procedures, watch videos and be up to speed or at least know a direction to go.

The process to create and document procedures is time consuming, so make a priority list to decide which are most important. Have each department create their own, then meet to discuss, delete, or adjust to fit the scope of work. These become the guidelines for how you run your business. They may be videos of how to do a task; from how to answer the phone, to how to grind an edge, polish a floor, pour concrete, stain a floor and many more.

For example, if you have multiple polishing teams that do the same processes, imagine if they all did it through a single procedure. You could be assured that all your work comes out the same. Imagine the consistency of quality you could rely on with all those teams. Imagine sleeping at night knowing it all works, it all looks the same, and no client was upset, because they followed your procedures.

It really depends on what you want out of your company and for its future growth.

Decorative Concrete Council

ACI Decorative Concrete Certification Review and Exam at Annual Conference

I had the privilege of conducting the first ACI Decorative Concrete Flatwork Finisher and Associate Certification review class and exam held during the Annual Conference last month in Chicago. The 8-hour class included review of the Placing and Finishing Decorative Concrete Flatwork CCS-5(16) text book, the Job Task Analysis (JTA) for Decorative Concrete Flatwork Finisher and Associate, the CP-12 craftsman workbook, practice exam questions, discussion about best practices for placing and finishing decorative concrete, and the exam. There were six students representing four companies. Based on the feedback and discussions during the class it was well received.

ACI considers a Decorative Concrete Flatwork Finisher a craftsman who has demonstrated knowledge about and the ability to place, finish, cure, and protect decorative concrete flatwork. A Decorative Concrete Flatwork Associate is a person knowledgeable about proper procedures to place, finish, cure, and protect decorative concrete flatwork, but who lacks sufficient work experience to qualify as a Decorative Concrete Flatwork Finisher. The two-hour written examination is closed-book and consists of approximately 50 multiple-choice questions. The passing grade for the written examination is 70%. The same review session will be held at the World of Concrete in Las Vegas in February. For more information about the ACI Decorative Concrete Flatwork Finisher and Associate certification or the upcoming review class at the World of Concrete use the links below.

ACI Decorative Concrete Flatwork Finisher and Associate Certification https://www.concrete.org/certification/certificationprograms.aspx?m=details&pgm=Concrete%20Flatwork%20Finishing&cert=Decorative%20Concrete%20Flatwork%20Finisher%20and%20Associate

ACI Prep Class at World of Concrete: https://explore.worldofconcrete.com/Attendee/Schedule/SessionDetails/262488

Concrete Polishing Council

CHALLENGES: Company Procedures and Processes

Shawn Halverson, CPC Council Director

CIM students and professors met with ASCC staff to discuss the possibilities of student chapters. The Safety Council debuted a new, safety self-assessment program – S.T.A.R. – to help members benchmark and track improvement in their safety cultures. Jon Hansen, NRMCA, announced that organization’s new initiative to promote concrete trails. General Session speaker Wally Adamchik challenged attendees to give their employees certainty: economic, safety, refuge, a positive work environment.

Scott Anderson warned – when finishing in Alaska, don’t forget the bear spray!
American Society of Concrete Contractors (ASCC) organized a study to evaluate laser scanning for F-numbers. The study was conducted on a construction site in Walnut Creek, CA, October 6 and 7, 2018. Eight participants (each comprising one to three individuals) scanned portions of the project, and their measurements were compared against independently obtained reference data. An article on F-numbers will be published in ACI *Concrete International* in the near future. The accuracy of measuring target coordinates with lasers from this study was previously reported in “ASCC 3-D Laser Scanning Study” published in ACI *Concrete International* January 2019.

The study was not successful in getting a reasonable comparison between F-numbers obtained by the Dipstick® and those with laser imaging devices. ASTM E1155-14 permits the use of a laser imaging device to collect F-numbers. Note 3 (shown below) in ASTM E1155 cautions the users that “all project participants” should agree on the exact test apparatus to be used “prior to the application” for contract specification enforcement.

**NOTE 3**—Since the bias of the results obtained with this test method will vary directly with the accuracy of the particular measurement device employed, all project participants should agree on the exact test apparatus to be used prior to the application of this test method for contract specification enforcement.

At this time, ASCC does not recommend the use of a laser imaging device for specification compliance. In addition, to the study in Walnut Creek, ASCC is collecting F-number measurement correlations between the Dipstick® and laser imaging devices. Table 1 shows some results below. Two operators used different devices and different sample measurement lines so this is an example of reproducibility.

The values within three points are reasonable (highlighted in green), however those that differ by more than three points are not reasonable (highlighted in red). We have not been able to determine at this time, when the two devices will provide a reasonable comparison, and under what conditions, and when they will not. If you have comparison data, please send to bsuprenant@ascconline.org. Until such time that we are confident in obtaining a reasonable comparison each time, we are unable to recommend the use of a laser imaging device for F-number specification compliance.

---

**Table 1 Reproducibility of F-numbers with Dipstick and Laser**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building</th>
<th>Pour</th>
<th>Dipstick</th>
<th>Laser</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>Dipstick</th>
<th>Laser</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>48.10</td>
<td>55.90</td>
<td>7.80</td>
<td>32.62</td>
<td>26.20</td>
<td>6.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>46.73</td>
<td>52.64</td>
<td>5.91</td>
<td>29.17</td>
<td>32.13</td>
<td>2.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>38.79</td>
<td>40.74</td>
<td>1.95</td>
<td>35.53</td>
<td>33.46</td>
<td>2.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>34.39</td>
<td>33.85</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>30.56</td>
<td>27.67</td>
<td>2.89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Safety & Risk Management Council**

**New ANSI Standard for Mobile Elevated Work Platforms Have December 10 Deadline**

Joe Whiteman, Director of Safety Services

If you perform work from a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP), it is important to know about the new ANSI requirements that go into effect this December. MEWP may be somewhat of a new term. It refers to aerial and scissor lifts that are a common piece of equipment we use on many projects. This new standard puts more focus and responsibility on the owners and users of this equipment. Compliance for operators, owners and employers goes into effect December 10, 2019.

There are two new ANSI Standards -- A92.22 Standards for Safe Use and A92.24 Standards for Training -- that replace the existing standards. Manufacturers, owners and operators are all affected. They affect equipment design, jobsite operations, safety, training and new equipment classifications, as well as add a new user classification: Occupants.

The occupant requirement is a minimum training standard for anyone accessing an MEWP who is not a fully trained operator. New equipment classifications are broken into two groups, those that operate vertically, like a typical scissor lift, and those that operate both vertically and beyond the equipment’s tipping lines, like a boom lift. Those two groups are further classified into three types, based on how and where they are controlled. Other safety training requirements focus on an understanding of the equipment types and operation for supervisors who direct or oversee those who perform the work. Also new within this standard is a requirement for a documented risk assessment and rescue planning for the equipment use and operation specific to the site and conditions. Lastly, manufacturers will be required on all new production to provide load limit, tilt and windspeed sensors, railing heights of 43.5 inches, all-terrain lifts equipped with foam filled tires, chains no longer permitted, and gates for platform access.
One thing to know, the new manufacturer requirements apply to new production only. Existing equipment will not need to be retrofitted to comply. I am willing to bet many of you are already meeting some of these new requirements, particularly those to do with performing a risk assessment and rescue provisions. As far as the other requirements, you still have time to get caught up. To make things easier, ASCC has developed a Safety Bulletin specific to ANSI A92.22 and A92.24 to help you along with incorporating the requirements into your safety program. But hurry, December 10 is approaching quickly.

Award Winners Announced at Annual Conference

The following awards were presented at ASCC’s Annual Conference in Chicago last month:

W. Burr Bennett Awards for Safety Excellence, presented in partnership with CNA Insurance, were given to specialty concrete contractor Largo Concrete, Inc., Tustin, CA (left), and general contractor DPR Construction, Newport Beach, CA (right).

The Fleet Safety award is based on the number of accidents and miles driven in 2018. For companies driving 299,000 miles or less the award went to Precision Concrete Construction, Alpharetta, GA., for 300,000 – 999,999 miles Groninger Concrete, Colorado Springs, CO was awarded and for one million miles or more the award was presented to Wayne Brothers, Davidson, NC.

Chris Plue, (left) senior vice president, Webcor Concrete Division, San Francisco, CA received the ASCC Member Owner Safety Award, presented to an owner/executive who displays a clear focus and passion for safety, and provides the leadership that creates a best-in-class safety culture.

Jordan Berens, (far right) director of project management and estimating, Kent Companies, Inc., Grand Rapids, MI, received the Emerging Leaders’ Gaining Strength Award for an individual under 40 who goes above and beyond to promote and professionally represent the concrete industry via their actions in their company and in outside organizations.

ASCC’s highest honor, the Lifetime Achievement Award was given to D. Thomas Ruttura, owner, Ruttura & Sons Construction Co., West Babylon, NY. This award acknowledges recipients for their body of work within the industry and their service to ASCC, and is given when there is a worthy recipient, by the ASCC Administrative Committee.

Webinars begin at 3:00 p.m. CST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 4, 2019</td>
<td>The Concrete Delivery Ticket: Where Mix-Design Meets the Jobsite (Mix Design Part II)</td>
<td>Dr. Kenneth Hover, Cornell University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>