Active Membership

A great organization is one in which members are engaged in the activities of the organization and benefit by their participation. What does engagement mean to you and your company? Is it online activities like the ASCC email forum? Attending the Annual Conference? Being a member of a committee?

I was recently informed that a longtime associate member had not renewed their membership. Upon reaching out for feedback, I found the company’s initial involvement started with a new employee that had an active history in ASCC with his former employer, and requested his new employer join ASCC so he could continue his involvement. Recently this employee relocated to another firm, and when the renewal came due for the company he had left, no one else had knowledge of ASCC and the benefits an active membership brings. Thus, they elected not to continue their involvement.

This emphasizes the need for engagement not only from active members, but also from others at our member organizations to highlight the benefits of an active membership. When you have a good experience, please pass this along to others in your organization and in the industry.

ASCC membership promotes an industry relationship for your company where contractors and manufacturers work together to create better solutions to our daily challenges. Active membership brings you to the roundtable discussions at our Annual Conference, and hearing the concerns and needs of the contractors. Active membership gives you access to the library of educational offerings and technical documents created over many years.

https://www.ascconline.org/membership/member-benefits

As a product manufacturer and supplier who is “contractor committed,” there is no better way to be on the front end of servicing contractor needs than to be part of ASCC. We are not the World of Concrete where 50,000 tire kickers walk by your booth. We are an organization that will give you access to a small group that truly represents the best in concrete construction. Our members are always looking for better solutions to their daily challenges, and with our wide range of offerings it is likely you have answers.

The key word to this message is “active.” Investing in membership can be done in many ways. To some it means engagement in our committees that ultimately can decide standards, specifications, or methods that will be used in concrete construction. For others...
What’s On Your Mind

- Why am I working just as hard or harder than other contractors, and they’re putting more money in their pockets?
- What new decorative products/processes could I show architects that would make them sit up and take notice?
- I’m still not sure I’m doing the silica sampling and recordkeeping correctly. How do I know if I’m doing it right?
- What do I do when the owner wants to measure our slabs with the new laser technology?
- I need to be able to explain to the slab contractor what he needs to give me so my polished surface will come out as expected. How do I explain it to him?
- More and more finishers aren’t passing our drug tests and I think opioids are at least part of the problem. What can I do?
- I know this wave of work won’t last forever. When is the bottom going to fall out of the economy?

Do any of these questions strike a chord? You can get answers to these and more at the Annual Conference coming up next month in Charlotte. These are just a few of the topics that will be discussed during seminars, at roundtable breakouts and probably over dinner or later at the bar.

And if you don’t see your most pressing question, please let me know what it is and I’ll do my best to find another attendee who can help.

If you’ve never attended an ASCC event, you’ll see that sharing information is truly at the heart of what ASCC is about. Making contractors better at what they do, in the office and in the field, by talking and listening to others who tackle these same problems every day.

So, what’s on your mind?

Protection From Severe Weather

Janet Greco Stanton, SRMC Board

To protect employees from being injured or killed we prepare and plan to prevent job site incidents before they happen. So, how do we protect our employees from an unpredictable event such as lightning?

Many job sites are outdoors in open spaces. This can leave employees dangerously exposed when severe weather hits. The preparation we do prior to a job site task can also be used to prepare our employees when severe weather, especially lightning, is headed our way.

Acting promptly to seek shelter from the storm is key. Knowing where to shelter when there aren’t many options is also important. Finally, making sure to stay safely sheltered until the danger passes is imperative. Here are some tips to keep your employees safe in a storm:

- If you hear thunder, even a distant rumble, get to a safe place immediately. Thunder is caused by lightning!
- Monitor conditions when a severe weather event is predicted. Watch for darkening clouds and increased wind speeds.
- Don’t begin a task that you cannot stop quickly.
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recommends taking shelter in fully enclosed buildings with electrical wiring and plumbing. The interior wiring and plumbing act as an earth ground.
- If safe structures aren’t available, take shelter in a hard-topped metal vehicle and close all windows.
- Whether taking shelter in a building or vehicle, always wait 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder.
- Never shelter in sheds, pavilions, tents, or covered porches.
- Avoid wiring, plumbing, fencing, metal objects, equipment and surfaces that can conduct electricity.
- Avoid water and immediately get out of, and away from, bodies of water.
- Cell phones and cordless phones can be used safely, once you have taken shelter.
- During storms or high winds, OSHA prohibits work on or from scaffolds (29 CFR 1926.451(f)(12); crane hoists (29 CFR 1926.1431(k)(8)); and work on top of walls (29 CFR 1926.854(c).
How Do I Use a JHA?

Joe Whiteman, Director of Safety Services

The Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) is a tool many contractors use regularly, even daily. What is a JHA? It is simply an analysis of a job task for anticipated hazards and identification of controls to help prevent an incident that may cause injury, illness, property damage or work interruption.

The JHA is a valuable tool for education and training, accountability, project documentation, and even process improvement. In July, 2018 we polled the ASCC Safety and Risk Management Council on the most frequent ways they see the JHA used. Here is the Council’s consensus:

New Hire Orientation - This is done to ensure people don’t “fall through the cracks”. Too often when you have a new field hire, everyone focuses on the orientation. When you incorporate the JHA review as part of the process, it gives time to ensure the new hire is first and foremost trained for the tasks they will be performing, as well as providing another opportunity for the foreman or superintendent to “vet” skill level and identify any training a new hire may be lacking.

Task / Process Pre-Planning – Often contractors have to submit project specific JHAs to the GC prior to mobilizing. JHAs are included as part of Site Specific Safety Plans to help communicate the hazards of the scope of work to the customer and other trades. The JHA has been a great way to incorporate key players like the superintendent, general foreman, foreman (crew leader for a specific task), as well as the project manager into the process. This provides input from all levels so that the safe working process is identified and incorporated, allowing the work sequence and schedule to jive properly. This lends itself to minimizing both the hurry up and wait logistic challenge, as well as stemming the inevitable safety “as the last thought.” Having the PM involved also keeps them abreast of the time/schedule for the task, along with any costs that may not have been accounted for. Once these individuals have completed the JHA process, the proper supervisor can then review the JHA with all the crew involved in the task. This process is documented and may be reviewed daily or weekly depending on the severity risk, as well as on an as needed basis should the process or hazards change.

Hazard Recognition / Process Improvement – The JHA can serve as an ongoing evaluation of current practices and products, to determine if there is a better way to reduce or eliminate hazards for that particular task. Breaking the job into specific tasks allows employees to get involved in discussing the task and identify the hazards. In many cases the crew fills them out together. We want them to assist with identifying ways to eliminate or minimize hazards.

Ongoing Project or Tool Box Communication – The JHA is a great opportunity for follow up, raising jobsite awareness and reinforcing safe practices. Especially when it is a task that’s new to a crew, or something particularly dangerous, you can review and have everyone sign-off. It is used to improve project team communications, for example to share with subcontractors, especially smaller ones, unfamiliar with JHAs. It is also a great opportunity to update everyone on changes or revisions to the document as it is a “living” document and should be updated to include new hazards or exposures. One SRMC member says, “We use them daily on nearly every project. Each crew foreman has one that reflects the tasks for the day. He includes a focused safety reminder with the morning stretch and flex that corresponds with the work for the day. The crew leader may customize the message based upon the tools or techniques that will be employed.”

Are you effectively using JHAs? If not and you want to get started, a detailed “how to” guide can be found here: https://www.osha.gov/Publications/osha3071.pdf

The ASCC has a growing number of JHA templates to help you get a head start. Feedback to the SRMC is that the JHA tool is a favorite of members: https://www.ascconline.org/concrete-safety-council/publications/job-hazard-analysis-template

Fast Track: From May Technical Committee Mtg. to Sept. ACI Publication

Bruce Suprenant, Technical Director

The ASCC Technical Committee discussed four possible position statements in May:

(1) backcharges, (2) cold joints, (3) layout control for tall buildings and (4) embed plates. The majority of conversation and concerns focused on the constructability of embed plates and this was considered to be the most important topic for a position statement. It didn’t take long however, to realize that this topic had never been addressed in the literature and that the constructability of embed plates involves design, fabrication, coordination and construction.

A task group of ASCC Technical Committee members which included Jim Klinger, Conco; Frank Salzano, CECO; Tim Manherz, TAS; and myself, set out to collect and organize the ideas and thoughts discussed at the May meeting. It was quickly discovered that there was way too much information to put into a position statement. But as we continued working, it was very evident we had a good collection of information. We contacted Rex Donahey, editor of ACI’s Concrete International and he agreed that it was a great idea and would consider it for publication.

After about two months of work, the task group sent the draft to Rex who accepted it and will publish it in the September issue of Concrete International. That is fast work, from idea to publication, indicating what ASCC members can do to help the concrete industry improve the constructability of embed plates and benefit all concrete contractors. Once this article is published, ASCC will be able to write a position statement referencing this article.
In addition to that success, the ASCC Technical Committee has been concerned with the use of laser scanning for concrete tolerances. We were able to draft a document proposal for ACI-ASCC 117 to create a “Guide to the Use of Laser Scanning for Concrete Tolerances”. That document proposal has been balloted by ACI-ASCC 117 and passed. ACI’s Technical Activities Committee (TAC) will get a chance to vote on it prior to the ACI Las Vegas Convention. With any luck, ACI-ASCC 117 will be able to start on that document this October. Now that is fast track work!

Congratulations to the ASCC Technical Committee!!!

CIM Announces New Board

The National Steering Committee (NSC) for the Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program – a business intensive program that awards students with a four-year Bachelor of Science degree in Concrete Industry Management – recently announced their board members beginning July 1.

The slate of new NSC officers includes:
- Executive Director – Eugene Martineau, CIM National Steering Committee
- Chairman – Mike Schneider, Vice President, Chief People Officer (CPO), Baker Concrete Construction, Inc.
- Vice Chairman – Michael Philippi, Vice President, Business Development, Construction Materials, Sandler Training
- Secretary/Treasurer – Nicole R. Maher, Chief Operating Officer, National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA)
- Immediate Past Chairman – Wallace Johnson, U.S. Concrete, Inc.

The NSC board of directors includes:
- Randal M. Beard, Principal and Managing Director, Walter P. Moore
- Dr. Rex Cottle, Trinity Industries, Inc. (retired)
- Steve Cox, Vice-President – Custom Success, Command Alkon
- Brian Gallagher, Vice President, Marketing, O’Neal, Inc.
- Julie Garbini, Executive Director, RMC Research & Education Foundation
- Beverly Garnant, Executive Director, American Society of Concrete Contractors
- Douglas Guerrero, Chairman, CIM Patrons, California State University, Chico
- Marti Harrell, NPCA Vice President of Education and Training and NPCA Foundation Executive Director, National Precast Concrete Association Foundation (NPCA)
- Scott Harrison, Senior Associate, Construction Insight, Inc.
- Kyle Loyd, Executive Vice President, Concrete & Waterproofing, Sika Corporation
- Paul Ozinga, Executive Vice President, Ozinga RMC, Inc.
- Aaron Snowdon, Director RMC Performance, Summit Materials, LLC
- Russell Tripp, President, American Concrete Pipe Association
- Rick Yelton, Editor at Large, Informa Exhibitions U.S.

“We continue the great fortune of having a board of directors comprised of industry leaders that bring vast amounts of experience, capability and commitment to the National Steering Committee,” said CIM NSC Executive Director Eugene Martineau. “Their leadership is essential as the NSC continues to provide oversight and direction while advancing the CIM program and preparing the next generation of leaders for the concrete industry.”

Member Recognition

Anniversary Congratulations to member companies Baker Concrete Construction, Monroe, OH (50 years) and Ruttura & Sons Construction Company, Inc., West Babylon, NY (100 years).