During the first week of May each year, ASCC holds Committee Week, where 10 committees and 3 councils each meet at the ASCC offices in St. Louis.

The Safety and Risk Management Council (SRMC) was led by council director Mike Schneider with Baker Concrete Construction and Joe Whiteman, the director of safety services for ASCC. Much of the meeting was a working session on the SRMC Strategic Plan Goal of developing a Safety Recognition Program for ASCC contractors. This program will be scalable for small to large contractors, with guidelines on key performance indicators and processes to help continuously improve safety capabilities. Scott Greenhaus, STRUCTURAL, reported that progress is being made with a manufacturer to develop a helmet which will meet ANSI and European industrial standards, with a price point much closer to the standard hardhat.

The Technical Committee was led by Bruce Suprenant, technical director for ASCC. Important discussion was held on the ongoing progress of the joint ACI-ASCC Committee 117, Tolerances, around their new “Guide to the Use of 3-D Laser Scanning for Concrete Tolerances,” an effort to better standardize this process. In-depth discussion was held on developing a guide for constructability of concrete buildings, in conjunction with the two-year old ACI Constructability Committee 134.

The Emerging Leaders Committee is looking for mentors for their young leader mentoring program. It is also not too late to send in entries for the Gaining Strength Award, to recognize an emerging leader in your company.

The joint NRMCA/ASCC Paving Committee is looking for concrete parking lot case studies. They can send you a form to complete. They are going to start a podcast series to help contractors learn how to promote and win parking lots as concrete, instead of asphalt. If you are looking for tools to help promote, design, and install concrete parking lots check out the extensive Paving Tool Kit on the ASCC website, free to all members.

The next ASCC event is the Concrete Executive Leadership Forum (CELF), in Key Largo, Florida, July 18th to the 21st. The CELF always has interactive, energetic and challenging learning opportunities, and is a great place to build relationships with your peers. Please join us.

Executive Director’s Message

Lots of ideas come out of Committee Week. One from this year was the concept of a Safety Summit. Discussion began with the idea of a MIX Group for safety directors who would benefit from sharing safety practices, just as owners and managers share business practices in our regular groups. There seemed to be some stumbling blocks with that one, in addition to the fact it would serve only a few members.

The fourth edition of the best-selling Contractor’s Guide to Quality Concrete Construction is now available in print and digital formats. Published jointly by ASCC and ACI, the guide is over 100 pages longer than the previous edition, and includes full-color photos and illustrations, a new legal chapter, and 43 of the ASCC Position Statements. Available at the ASCC online bookstore.

Welcome New Members

Concrete Marketing Crew, Parkland, FL
Copachisa SA de CV, Chihuahua, Mexico
G.T. Rentals, Brooklyn, NY
Poured Foundations of Delaware, Inc., Newark, DE
RVP, Marshall, TX
The idea for a summit, however, seemed a natural next step for ASCC’s safety programming and resources. Nothing is confirmed, but the thought is to hold it once or twice a year, for one day, moving to different parts of the country like the Annual Conference. All members would be encouraged to send a safety leader, whether that’s the owner or a full-time safety director. Programming would most likely include a keynote speaker. However, most of the day would be devoted to breakout groups where the valuable “MIX” interchange of ideas would take place. That’s about as far as we’ve come. We will definitely look for more direction from the SRMC board and others. I’m hoping we can debut this event in 2020 and that it will become a rich source of ideas, support and energy for our members’ safety programs.

**Decorative Concrete Council**

The ASCC will be offering the **Decorative Concrete Flatwork Finisher & Associate Certification Programs at the Annual Conference** in Chicago on Thursday, September 19, 2019.

A **Decorative Concrete Flatwork Finisher** is 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 who is 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.

ACI will grant certification to those candidates who obtain a passing grade on the written examination AND are currently certified as an ACI Concrete Flatwork Finisher or Technician.

It is the intent to grow the ACI Decorative Concrete Finisher program to raise the bar for the decorative concrete industry and, in the future, introduce the ACI decorative concrete finisher certification as a requirement in decorative concrete specifications. There needs to be a sufficient number of ACI certified decorative concrete finishers before ACI Certification is introduced as a requirement in specifications. Please consider having your finishers become certified in order to grow this program!

**Concrete Polishing Council**

Challenges:

“How long will it last?” My most common question on job walks or phone inquires about polished concrete. “I want it to last forever and I hear it’s maintenance free!” Your clients need your help!

We as an industry have to communicate with customers to educate them on all facets of polished concrete. This includes MAINTENANCE!

So please, when a customer makes a bold statement about polishing and how it should be perfect and not require any effort from them, you have two choices; educate them or walk away. Don’t dodge this question; this is our opportunity to be honest and teach them how simple it is to care for.

Yes polished concrete is great. Yes polished concrete is beautiful. Yes it will last a long time. BUT it does take some simple maintenance and a little effort. We need to show them maintenance can be simple. Teach them, show them.

Or, this could be the time to set up a quarterly maintenance program. You, the installer, know the floor best; your knowledge can keep this client happy and the floor looking fabulous.

You can set up a regular scheduled maintenance program for a fee. This also works to your advantage for future job walks or when a client requests to see past work. You know these floors are still looking awesome because you care for them.

It’s a great way to keep the money coming in on projects, long past when the last burnishing pass has cooled down.

**ACI Technical Committee Update**

14 attendees at the May ASCC Technical Committee meeting in St. Louis participated in a lively three hour discussion on many technical issues. The highlights are below.

**Constructability Column in ACI Concrete International**

ACI 134 Constructability is developing articles to promote and explain constructability. Three articles have been written below by ASCC members and the ASCC Technical Committee. The committee is proposing another article on “Constructability of Rubbed Finishes on Formed Surfaces”. Please send any input to bsuprenant@ascconline.org.

- “Defining Concrete Constructability”, Karlson, Connolly, Garcia, and Suprenant, ACI *Concrete International*, October 2018.
I’ll admit the title may be slightly misleading, as we all know that any action or process takes time and time equals money. However, if you consider for a moment that the major players in the construction industry spend millions of dollars every year on their safety programs, the suggestions really do have minimal cost. This article is addressed to the leaders and decision makers in your company. If that’s you, great! If not, there are still concepts outlined below that you can implement. Let’s jump right in!

1. **Ask your people to work safely.** Too simple, right? But when was the last time you had a sincere, heart-felt conversation with your workforce to explain that getting them home safely is your primary goal, and thus, your expectation is that they conduct their work in the safest manner possible? Our workforce wants to do a good job. Make sure they understand that the most important part of “doing a good job” is doing the job safely. In a company with a vibrant safety culture, safety of people comes first and is the primary consideration.

2. **Visit your job sites (and quickly resolve safety issues observed).** Nothing demonstrates care and concern more than the presence of executive leadership on a job site; talking to the workforce and observing working conditions. Walk the job from top to bottom. Ask about concerns. Our workers are truly the experts on how work is done, and understand that a task is not always textbook. Get a feel for employee morale and resolve safety issues before leaving the job site if possible. Swift and effective action to eliminate safety hazards will instill confidence, improve morale and productivity, and ultimately increase profitability. The most important component of an effective safety culture is top management’s genuine commitment to safety.

3. **Pre-plan work with an emphasis on hazard identification and elimination.** Do estimators and project managers consider potential safety hazards as they put together bids and buy out the job? If “no”, I suggest you make safety just as important in those processes as well. Ask safety-related questions as part of the bid and planning processes: “Work in the right-of-way?” “Proximity to overhead or underground utilities?” “Fall protection concerns?” A major safety issue discovered the first day on site puts everyone in a tough spot. Once you mobilize, make sure superintendents and foremen know they are responsible to identify and eliminate hazards. The ability to anticipate and eliminate potential hazards is a skill field leaders must develop to move the company towards a world-class safety culture.

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**5 Things You Can Do to Build Your Safety Culture That Don’t Cost Anything**

Joe Rock, Safety & Risk Management Council

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4. **Hire people who value safety and hold them accountable.** Your leaders must understand that they are responsible for the safety of those they lead, and that your expectation is that they care for the workers entrusted to them as they would their own family. Holding people accountable doesn’t necessarily mean firing them when someone misses the mark in terms of safety. It does mean honest conversation. Recognize and promote those in the organization who demonstrate safety excellence and those behaviors will be repeated.

5. **Establish a Safety Leader and support him or her.** Regardless of the size of the company, there should be at least one influential person whose job it is to champion safety. Although the Safety Leader doesn’t need to be a safety professional, they must be well-respected, have excellent communication and leadership skills, and have the authority to impact all aspects of the business (either directly or indirectly through the support of executive leadership). Safety must have a seat at the table along with the other critical aspects of the business. A dedicated and genuinely committed Safety Leader can make a huge difference.

Establishing a positive safety culture where working incident and injury free is everyone’s primary focus is hard work. Executive leadership and management are the key components of any effective safety program. I hope the suggestions above are helpful in moving your company forward. If you find your team struggling, please reach out to an experienced safety professional. Changing our safety culture for the better is what we do!

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**The Heat is On: Don’t Let it Catch You Off Guard!**

As I channel my inner Glenn Frey and hum the lyrics to “The Heat Is On,” I’m thinking about how quickly summer has come upon us. I hope everyone is ready and prepared for hot working conditions, ensuring employees have been properly acclimated as well as ensuring that schedules, drinking water, and shade are accounted for. All should be going through our minds as we plan our workdays and welcome the warm weather.

With hot weather comes increased exposure to heat illness. I’m sure we all have either experienced or know someone who has experienced some level of heat illness. We should be well aware of the symptoms of heat illness and the results if they are ignored or unnoticed. Heat illness can rapidly escalate to a preventable fatal incident- heat stroke; the operative word being preventable.

Prevention is key. First, we need to plan. In planning the workday, we must take into consideration not only elevated temperatures, but also provisions for shade, accessibility to sufficient water, and adequate rest. Second, we need to train employees on the hazards of heat illness and how to recognize the symptoms. Third, we must continually communicate. Communication not only includes the daily workplan, but the location of water and shade and what to do in case of a heat-related emergency. Additionally, we must encourage our workers to watch out for one another and to report when anyone is feeling overly fatigued.

Early recognition and open communication will ensure we maintain our “cool.” We all know the superman syndrome; we’re invincible and “it won’t happen to me.” Encourage your workers to hydrate and pay attention to their bodies as well as those working around them. Celebrate those who recognize when to take a quick pause and an extra drink of water. That is what will ensure that we are not caught off guard while the heat is on!

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**HOT LINE QUESTIONS**

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<th>CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION</th>
<th>POLISHED CONCRETE</th>
<th>SAFETY &amp; INSURANCE</th>
<th>DECORATIVE CONCRETE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>800-331-0668</td>
<td>844-923-4678</td>
<td>833-281-9602</td>
<td>888-483-5288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Suprenant</td>
<td>Chris Sullivan</td>
<td>Joseph Whiteman</td>
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ASCC members have access to these toll-free numbers for assistance.

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Webinars begin at 3:00 p.m. CST

June 12, 2019  Shotcrete 101: From Building Foundations to Retrofits  Frank Townsend III, Superior Gunite

Members no charge. Non-members $35; MC, Visa, Amex only. Call 866-788-2722 to register.