Message from the Executive Committee

Mario Garza, ASCC Vice President

Last month, Chris Forster spoke about “active membership” and the importance of including other employees from our organizations in association activities. As we enter into our industry’s convention season, it is equally important that we apply the concept to our involvement in other industry associations.

Contractor representation in the industry is an important role we play as members of ASCC. Our involvement in other associations helps us provide professional expertise and insight to our peers in the industry; specifically input into associations that develop guides, standards, and codes is critical.

During his time as ASCC president, Scott Anderson spoke on numerous occasions about the importance of contractor involvement in the American Concrete Institute (ACI). ACI is the organization that creates and maintains the standards and codes that govern concrete construction in North America and in many parts of the world. Being present on the committees that develop these standards allows us to bring constructability insights into the conversations. This allows for revisions to the standards that allow our industry to progress and be more efficient.

The ACI Fall Convention is quickly approaching; October 14 – 18 in Las Vegas. The 2019 Spring convention will be in Québec City, QC, Canada, March 24 – 28. If you are not a member of ACI, and have not attended a convention, please feel free to reach out to Bev or me for more information. Barton Malow was introduced to ACI by one of our competitors who encouraged us to be an active participant in the development of industry standards. We are grateful to them for bringing us to the table.

Executive Director’s Message

Hard Lessons About Safety I’ve Learned in My Life, Jon Hansen, NRMCA

As we rush to get ready for the Annual Conference I thought I’d let Jon Hansen, NRMCA representative to the ASCC board, speak about safety from his perspective. I have to say I was especially pleased with his impressions of ASCC’s focus on safety. Always nice to hear good things from another viewpoint.

A couple weeks back, we all received our reminders from Concrete Infocus Editor in Chief Frank Cavaliere about the deadline for the Fall edition. He encouraged each of us to work one of three topics into our articles: Safety, Environmental, or Operations. Anyone that follows my articles, (thank you to those that send me notes, either pro or con, all are appreciated) knows that I will occasionally take a lighter view to concrete promotion and construction, and in the words of that esteemed Editor in Chief, sometimes even folksy. That’s OK, I am fine with all of it, good and bad, as long as you read it, right?

So for me to work Safety, Environmental, or Operations into one of my articles I considered boring... but only for a moment. My thoughts went almost instantly to

Welcome New Members

Anchor Enterprise Inc., Anchorage, AK
Baxton-Bragg, Knoxville, TN
BURNCO, Irving, TX
Concrete Design and Repair, Marietta, GA
Envision Flooring LLC, Phoenix, AZ
Fleet Cost & Care, Chicago, IL
Old Stone Restoration & Installation Corp., Ridge, NY
Polished Concrete Ltd., Albany, Auckland, NEW ZEALAND
Rhopoint Americas, Troy, MI
Stampitcrete, LLC, Columbus, GA
Take 2 Coatings & Sealants, LLC, Canton, GA

Thanks to Turner Brothers LLC, Raynham, MA for moving to Sustaining Membership.
my involvement with the American Society of Concrete Contractors (ASCC) who begin every meeting, including all committees and Board of Directors, with a safety moment. Safety isn’t a side topic for them, it is front and center always. This concrete contractor group is so safety focused that they will not use a photo of a construction operation, no matter how good the photo might be, if proper safety equipment, clothing, and practices are violated in the photo. They set the safety bar very high, something other concrete industry people must respect and voluntarily participate in when on one of their member job sites.

My next thought went to a recent conversation with a cousin. After a lengthy career as a union steward, he lost his job when the packing house closed. Soon after, he was approached by a local utility contactor to become his HR/Safety person. Like many construction companies, the contractor’s business had grown from just him to a staff of 50 over a period of 20 years, with the owner doing most of the HR (hiring) and safety was relegated to a semi-annual meeting with an insurance agent. Workman’s compensation claims were high, as were premiums. Within 3 years, my cousin has reduced claims and injuries, resulting in a 30% reduction in workman’s compensation insurance premiums. His message and method: brief, daily safety meetings, asking employees input to safety, and job site tail gate meetings. But the biggest success came when he explained the 30% reduction in insurance premium dollars to crew managers, and told them this money saved could now be spent on new pickups, equipment, and pay raises. “Once they realized that safely working is not only smart, but also saves money, everyone participated,” he told me.

And then the next, sobering thought hit me: In my lifetime, 3 people I knew were killed in construction accidents. The first one happened when I was in my early teens. I will never forget the look on my father and older brothers’ faces when they came home that summer evening to tell us that “Swan” had died that day, run over when he made a quick move to grab a shovel that was in the way of a backing up front loader. My father was standing close by and was the first to Swan’s aid, only to hear, and repeat that night to our family, Swan’s last words. My hands still shake as I remember it now, some 50 years later, as I type these words.

The second was a son of a high school friend who owns a successful electrical line service company. Working for his father, Kyle was alone in a bucket boom doing some final connection on a dead, but close to a live, connection. Speculation is a dropped bolt ran under a protective blanket, and reaching under to retrieve it, even with high voltage gloves, resulted in instant electrocution. My high school friend experienced what must have been hell on earth, when he had to call for power to be cut, then the long wait while it was, then to ascend the boom truck and bring his lifeless son down. No one should have to experience this.

The last was 2 years ago, when the son of a friend was working on an open trench utilities project, the kind of unprotected trench which did not require anyone to be working in the hole. But something was not going in quite right, and Gary jumped into the trench for just a brief moment. But in that moment, his jumping into the trench caused it to collapse and cave in, burying him alive, suffocating him. Three tragedies, all happening to unsuspecting workmen, who made a move they had probably made a dozen times in the past, only to have the 13th time end in death.

A couple years ago my nephew graduated from the state police academy. We attended his graduation and noticed the commencement speaker was a former academy graduate who was currently the Chief of Police at a large, metropolitan city. His address was entitled “The Most Important Job of an Officer.” I anticipated we would hear about catching bad people, fighting crime, or something along those lines. But his message was very different. As he wove his story within his message, he ended with this: “The most important job of a police officer is to go home to his family every night.” To go home safely every night. To go home, every night.

Safety in the workplace. Thanks Editor in Chief Franck for making me stop and remember how important it is.

### Asbestos and Lead Based Paint Awareness Training

Jason Anglin, SRMC Board

In construction, we often have the opportunity to work on older structures. These projects offer unique opportunities to preserve and repurpose structures of historical significance. However, they can have their own unique hazards, such as potential exposure to Asbestos Containing Material (ACM), Presumed Asbestos Containing Material (PACM) and/or Lead Based Paint (LBP).

Employers may not be aware of what is necessary to protect their employees when working on older structures. Often there is a misconception that worker training is unnecessary if ACM or LBP won’t be disturbed. This misconception can lead to hazardous material exposure and OSHA fines.

Training is necessary if workers have the potential to:

- Disturb asbestos, defined as activities that disrupt the matrix, crumble or pulverize, or generate visible debris from ACM or PACM.
- Be exposed to LBP, which OSHA defines as all work related to construction, alteration, or repair, including painting and decorating.

Many activities involved in the renovation of older structures have the potential to disturb hazardous materials. Abatement and demolition are obvious, but even resurfacing floors, sanding painted surfaces or drilling holes have the potential to disturb hazardous material.
An initial step to assess the risk for ACM and LBP is to determine the age of the structure. If built before:

- 1980: It should be assumed to have ACM. However, ACM and PACM are still common in buildings constructed in the 1990s and in modern day materials such as roofing felts, pipeline wraps, gaskets, millboard and others, due to a 1991 appeals court ruling that overturned a portion of the “Asbestos Ban and Phase Out” rule.

- 1978: The structure should be assumed to contain LBP. However, LBP may exist in younger buildings as well.

If ACM or LBP is present, all workers with the potential to disturb ACM or PACM, or be exposed to LBP, need to be trained to recognize the potential hazards and understand what is necessary to work safely.

Employers should do the following to demonstrate due diligence to safeguard workers for activities which won’t disturb ACM or LBP, but have the potential to do so:

- Request in writing a copy of all test reports for ACM and LBP from the building owner. Ensure the reports adequately address all materials associated with the work scope.

- Conduct and review a hazardous materials survey before beginning work, to determine what protective measures are necessary to work safe.

- If ACM or PACM are present, provide a two-hour asbestos awareness training.

- If LBP is present, provide awareness training.

Further training is necessary if work activities require ACM, PACM or LBP to be disturbed. Training for these types of tasks must follow federal, state and local guidelines.

Renovation on older buildings can be a rewarding experience, but only if done safely.

**Have You Considered a Safety Committee?**

Joe Whiteman, Director of Safety Services

If you sat through the ASCC Legacy Safety Leadership Program, you may remember discussing the benefits of implementing a Safety Committee. For those of you who have not taken part in the training, I highly encourage you to do so.

Safety and Health committees can be a vital part of your Safety Management System. A Safety and Health committee is a powerful tool when it has the right personnel, appropriate responsibilities, the resources to carry out those responsibilities, guidance and support of management, and the cooperation of co-workers. Below is the Safety Committee Checklist from the Legacy Program for your use, to measure your existing Safety Committee, or ideas to incorporate as you develop one.

**Safety Committee Checklist**

1. Is management an active participant on the committee? Y N
2. Are all functional areas of the site represented on the committee? Y N
3. Is membership rotated to give all employees a turn on the committee? Y N
4. Does the committee have a set of written responsibilities? For example:
   - Does it hold regular meetings?
   - Look for hazards?
   - Help correct hazards?
   - Help implement safety initiatives?
   - Conduct RCAs?
   - Talk to peers about what is going on in safety? Y N
5. Are members trained to know what to do? Y N
6. Does the committee meet regularly? Y N
7. Is there a written agenda for each meeting? Y N
8. Does the committee track action items from previous meetings? Y N
9. Do members communicate safety issues to their co-workers? Y N
10. Are members recognized periodically for their participation? Y N

Utilizing this checklist will help ensure that your safety committee is properly utilized. If you are just implementing one, this will help ensure it is set up for success, so not only the members of the committee, but also those working in the field will benefit from the committee’s efforts.
Expanded Joint Flooring Presenters Selected

Bruce Suprenant, Technical Director

The ASCC Annual Conference brochure indicated that speakers for the Expanded Joint Flooring Seminar on Saturday, September 22, from 8:30 to 10:00 am were to TBD: to be determined. Well, not anymore! Come to the seminar to hear the following speakers present a brief summary on expanded joint flooring followed by questions from the audience. I have included their email addresses in case you have questions prior to the Annual Conference.

Speakers/Panel Participants

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CIM Announces New Cohort for Executive MBA Program

The Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program announces it is accepting applications for the next cohort beginning Jan. 2019 for the unique Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree in CIM, offered through the Jennings A. Jones College of Business at MTSU.

Administered in 7-week blocks, the format for the 15-month-long program includes distance learning, webinars, and two on-campus visits to MTSU. The distinctive partner structure is designed for networking and sharing experiences, while fostering a collaborative learning environment. The $25,000 fee represents the total academic cost of the program per participant, except for books. Applications for the next cohort are due by Oct. 1.

Professionals participating in the CIM MBA program must have a minimum three years of experience in the concrete industry. Academically, all participants must have at least an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution of higher education. While participants must have at least a bachelor’s degree, that degree does not have to be in business.