

We Can Make a Difference in ACI Documents!

Sometimes we think we can't make a difference in improving ACI documents, but we can! We can provide comments as a committee member, through the Construction Liaison Committee (CLC), and at public comment stage for ACI Codes and Standards. Recently, a new document from ACI 121, "Guide to Auditing in the Concrete Industry" was available for review by CLC. Since quality is not my strong point, I asked Bev to see if other ASCC contractor members with experience in quality audits could assist in the review. Thanks to Eric Peterson of Webcor, Frank Salzano of CECO and John Hausfeld of Baker Concrete for providing more than 100 comments on this document. We were fortunate to have John comment as he has conducted more than 300 quality audits over the last five years. Think of the improvement this can make.

Still not sure if we can improve ACI documents? **Through CLC, with ASCC contractor member assistance, we submitted more than 400 comments on ACI 301 "Specifications for Structural Concrete"**. Our very own Ward Malisch is a member of ACI 301 and through his preliminary count (ACI 301 is still voting) it appears that about 65% of the comments have been accepted. That means that the comments are considered and the committee, like us, wants to improve their document. We previously haven't been able to track the effect of our comments so this is great information.

But we can still do more. We have strong contractor representation on ACI 117 Tolerances, ACI 302 Slabs, ACI 310 Decorative Concrete, ACI 347 Formwork for Concrete, ACI C601D Decorative Finisher Certification, ACI C640 Craftsman Certification and ACI Construction Liaison Committee.

- **ACI 117:** 9 ASCC contractor members out of 28 voting members including the Chair, Eric Peterson of Webcor and Secretary, Scott Anderson of Pankow Builders.
- **ACI 302:** 8 ASCC contractor members out of 26 voting members including the Chair, Joe Neuber of Neuber Concrete.
- **ACI 310:** 4 contractor members out of 18 voting members.
- **ACI 347:** 5 contractor members out of 28 voting members.
- **ACI C601D:** 4 contractor members including the Chair, Lance Boyer of Trademark Concrete Systems.
- **ACI C640:** 4 contractor members out of 17 voting members.
- **ACI CLC:** 6 contractor members out of 20 voting members.

This is a pretty impressive representation! But we still need more ASCC members who can contribute in other committees. For instance, **we have no ASCC contractor members on ACI 305 Hot Weather Concreting or ACI 308 Curing Concrete**. Yes, being a voting member of a committee means you have to attend some of the ACI conventions, review changes made when documents are revised, and—most importantly—vote, even if many of your negative votes are ruled non-persuasive (meaning the committee doesn't agree with you). A negative vote that's not agreed to still presents the contractor's viewpoint and may have an impact on later votes. Think of the impact you could make for your company and the industry; as shown by the large percentage of changes to ACI 301 that were accepted based on contractor comments. We can make a difference.