ASCC NEWSLETTER
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INDUSTRY CALENDAR

ASCC MIX Group Orientation
October 28-30, 2021
Phoenix, AZ
Registration

Safety Summit
November 12, 2021
Houston, TX
Registration
Agenda
Sponsorship Information

World of Concrete
Education January 17-20, 2022
Exhibits January 18-20, 2022
Las Vegas, NV
Committee Meeting Schedule

Kick Off Bash
January 17, 2022
The Westgate
Registration
Sponsorship Information

Welcome New Members
- Mid-Atlantic Epoxy, Chesapeake, VA
- Midwest Concrete Polishing, St. Louis, MO
- Rainier Concrete, Meadow Vista, CA
- Strand Concrete, Rockwall, TX
- Superior Concrete Construction, Pleasant View, UT
- Titan Equipment Co., Winfield, VA
Message from the Executive Committee

Supply Chain Challenges
Chris Forster, past president

On a 39-story tower we’re building, the exterior glass system was being fabricated in South America and was experiencing delays in manufacturing (labor), delays in shipping, and installation challenges at the project site due to missing components. On a typical high rise, the exterior skin is usually 6 to 8 floors below the current working deck. On this project we were forming floor 34 when the glass began to arrive and be installed. The significant amount of added perimeter protection safety cable required due to this delay became a challenge when the cable and hardware weren’t available, also due to shipping delays.

On another project on which the mockups were built and approved, when it came time to purchase the approved plywood for production, availability had moved to 16 weeks after the order date. We were scheduled to start in 12 weeks and had to begin the process of obtaining a substitute plywood that would be available in our time frame.

These types of challenges are predicted to become even more prevalent as new trucking regulations, shipping and port regulations, and new environmental regulations continue to make the products we need to build more challenging to obtain in a reasonable timeline. Products such as styrofoam and polysheeting that typically have a one- or two-day lead time, are now, in some cases months out once ordered. Form ties, nails, lumber and plywood have all seen supply chain challenges in recent months.

As you sign up new work, make sure to understand the contract terms relating to impacts from supply chain delays. Qualify your proposal with your client to make them aware of the challenges being faced. Work with suppliers and vendors that regularly communicate the status of the materials needed, and will be a partner in the solution should supply chain issues arise, not a hindrance in moving the project forward.

Work to get prepayments from owners on the long lead and price sensitive construction materials so they can be ordered well in advance. Material can be bonded and stored to prevent any delay.

If you haven’t already experienced challenges similar to those described above, you will, it’s just a matter of time. The ports are full, ships are sitting anchored, waiting for lengthy periods of time to unload their cargo. Don’t take for granted the availability of any of your required materials, it’s changing daily.

Be safe, Chris

Executive Director’s Message

Member Engagement
Bev Garnant

Member engagement; sometimes hard to pin down, yet so important. If you’re reading this you are most likely a member we would classify as “active.” That means you use a number of ASCC resources, and/or participating in organizational activities at a level that, all things remaining the same, you see membership in ASCC as an important part of your business. It means the information you glean as a result of membership, whether from the hotline, your MIX Group, committee participation, networking at events, or reading the email forum, have become an essential source of industry knowledge and expertise. As best as we can tell, these “active” companies are 41% of total membership.

There was a lot of discussion on this subject at the Annual Conference. How to engage “non-active” companies is always on our minds. It’s integral to ASCC and our councils’ strategic plans. We have a member retention plan that staff carries out. DCC, CPC, and MAC board members call all those new to their ranks. We recently started new member roundtables to answer questions
and encourage use of resources. We tell prospective members that joining an organization isn’t magic. If you don’t participate, nothing will change.

What can you do to help? Spread the word among your fellow members – at events, at MIX Group meetings, when you run into each other at a non – ASCC event, at WOC.

And don’t forget to share the benefits within your own company. Make sure everyone who could use them has the hotline numbers, is hooked into the email forum, receives the webinar notices. Let’s add you to the “extremely active” roster! 😊

"Joining organizations is not an option, it’s an imperative if you seek to make powerful connections."

Concrete Construction Specialist

Technical Notes from the 3-Dot Lounge...

Jim Klinger

Note #1: The ASCC Technical Division welcomes member phone calls to our Hotline and email traffic submitted by members either through the Forum or directly to us. Already this year we have fielded several hundred requests from our members for assistance with technical issues ranging from apparent cold joints in the middle of a mat pour to suggested work-arounds for metal deck shortages and similar supply-chain sourcing issues. In most cases, the calls or emails involve time-dependent concrete construction issues needing to be addressed in a timely manner. In order to provide the most efficient service, consider including the following information with your initial email request. For Hotline calls, companion emails containing relevant backup information can be very helpful as well…

- State the problem in as much detail as possible…
- Send copies of the construction documents, including relevant plans, specifications, mix designs. Use Dropbox or similar for large file sizes…
- Whenever possible, include photographs or videos…
- Consider sending us your proposal letter and your contractual scope of work to help us understand what work product you owe the project…
- Send copies of field, inspection and test reports prepared either in-house or by others.
- Send copies of relevant project correspondence…
- For issues related to cracking, send photographs and crack field maps, preferably marked up on structural plans that indicate design location of control joints…
- Send copies of non-compliance reports…
- For performance-related problems (e.g. cracking, curling, delamination, scaling, excessive deflection, etc.) explain when the issue was first detected relative to time of initial concrete placement…
- For mix designs, include supporting strength data and shrinkage data…
- If all else fails, do not hesitate to pick up the phone and call the ASCC Hotline…

Note #2: The ASCC Technical Division needs some help as well…

- We need clear photographs of reinforcing steel congestion in walls, slabs, beams and columns that are really beyond the pale. Conflicts with PT tendons are a plus…
- We are looking for example details where the licensed design professional actually made provisions in the structural drawings for vibrator access through congested reinforcing steel in walls, slabs, beams, etc…
- We are looking for examples where the licensed design professional assigned a tolerance to the portion of column anchor bolts embedded in a pile cap, footing or mat slab. Such a tolerance would be shown relative to top of concrete and the end of the anchor bolt…
- As a concrete contractor, have you ever been asked to become involved in a project to provide constructability service or counsel to an owner or licensed design professional related to concrete construction or logistics at the early schematic phase of a project? If you have, we would appreciate hearing about your experience…
At the start of a concrete construction project, how do you typically handle the provision and maintenance of jobsite curing facilities to be used by the testing agency for the lab-cured acceptance cylinders? In many cases, such items as water and temporary electrical power are assigned to the general contractor. If the testing agency has requirements not known at the time of your bid, how do you craft your bid proposal? Do you ever get saddled with transporting or handling test cylinders, say moving them from an upper floor level to the ground? Do you typically provide a jobsite cylinder storage box? Do the testing agency reports include data indicating cylinder temperature for the first 24 hours after casting? Let us know...

Are any of your projects using temperature-match curing? If they are, please let us know how the cylinders are handled, stored and transported during the first 24 hours after molding...

Note #3: Thanks to all of the ASCC members who attended our September Annual Conference and participated in the Technical Committee meetings and roundtables. This was my first conference, and it became instantly (and painfully) obvious to me that our membership is just full of wonderfully talented characters. Thanks to all of the folks who stopped me in the hallway or at meetings to introduce themselves and say hello...

Note #4: Thanks to all of the ASCC members who had anything at all to do with the event preparation and behind-the-scenes work...in particular any of the glass, antique wood and chain-link fence specialists that may have been assisting the Safety Awards committee...

Note #5: Here’s a bit of old-school investment advice. Purchase a 3-ring binder and print paper copies of ACI 301-20, ACI 117-10 and the current copies of the 44 ASCC Position Statements. At first glance, there is a lot of material in there. But in most cases, this is material that describes scope items that you contractually owe to a project. In other words, you either need to know the material outright or at least be able to find the information quickly. All it takes is thumbing through the pages for about an hour or so each week just to stay familiar with the binder contents...

Concrete Polishing Council

We’ve Survived; Will Our Businesses?
Scott Metzger, council director

Time takes everybody out. Time is undefeated. – Rocky Balboa

Having just returned from the ASCC Annual Conference - my first in-person industry event since the start of the pandemic – I have to say it was so rewarding to see so many old friends and industry partners, and to have an opportunity to feel like things in our industry are becoming “normal” again.

I must confess I had some reservations about attending a sizeable, in-person event, even as the Delta variant was raging in many parts of the country, and quite actively in Missouri. I have been fortunate enough to avoid contracting COVID-19, and it now seems like every time I have an opportunity to travel, consciously or unconsciously my brain ends up doing some complex risk-reward analysis to determine whether a trip is worth it. In speaking with many conference attendees, I found they, too, were continually wrestling with these trade-offs. I heard heart wrenching stories about friends and family members lost during the pandemic and spoke to many attendees who had already contracted the virus and survived it, though some living with long haul symptoms. I’m sure that for many of us, our personal experiences with the virus and its effects on our communities heavily influence our own risk/reward choices. Then there is always the need to work to ensure the survival of our businesses.

Living through this pandemic has been a constant reminder of just how fragile and fleeting our lives can be. And whether because of this heightened awareness, or perhaps because we were all re-united after so long and after so much uncertainty, in many conversations I sensed a strong undertone of concern over a succession plan for our businesses and for the industry as a whole.
Everyone seems to share the same critical problem of obtaining new employees, and more than once I heard someone say they would hire 50 or 100 new employees if they could find them. At an even deeper level, I left with a pressing sense that we need to start identifying the next generation of industry leaders to ensure they become active and engaged in the ASCC and other industry organizations. ASCC had clearly identified this need long ago, and responded by creating the Emerging Leaders Committee, developing the MIX Group platform, and sponsoring CIM students to attend the Annual Conference. It seems that all the construction and labor trades are suffering with a workforce that is quickly “aging out” and are scrambling to find short or long term solutions. I’m proud to be a part of an organization that’s taking such an active role in working to solve this pressing generational problem, and I look forward to working alongside all of you in the search for a path forward to keep our industry strong.

Decorative Concrete Council

Preparing for Cold Weather
Chris Sullivan, decorative concrete specialist

Fall is upon us. This means its time for my annual reminder to start paying close attention to the weather. The two key processes to pay attention to in the shoulder seasons are curing and sealing. First, always follow ACI practices for placing and curing. When temperatures start to get close to 40F, its time to think about accelerators and curing blankets. Reading up on ACI 306R-16 Guide to Cold Weather Concreting is always a good idea in the fall. This is especially important when working with colored concrete. Curing inconsistently can lead to color variations and a blotchy and spotted appearance, which is far worse with colored concrete. Sealing is the other place to pay more attention. Switching from water to solvent based materials is recommended to avoid the white haze that can occur due to low temperatures and higher humidity. You should also consider targeting the warmer part of the day for sealer application compared to the summer when mornings and late day application is recommended. No matter the type of concrete work you do, staying on top of the environment is important. A few minutes refreshing your cold weather concreting plan can go a long way towards avoiding get caught in the cold.

I encourage you to utilize all the technical hotlines provided by ASCC. These are a valuable benefit available to members only. Reach the ASCC / DCC Decorative Hotline via phone at 888-483-5288 or by email at csullivan@ascconline.org.

Old Friends
Jeff Eiswerth, DCC council director

As I write this month’s article, I can’t help but recall how fun, exciting, and rewarding it was to see friends and peers in St. Louis at the Annual Conference. For me, industry colleagues at ASCC are like those friends in life that you can go for a period without seeing, and when you see them again you pick up right where you left off. I only have a handful of friends like that, but almost everyone in ASCC is that type of person.

I am truly blessed to be involved with such a wonderful organization with so many great people. I was able to meet some new people to the organization as well as new people who have been with the ASCC for some time. The DCC awards at Thursday night's dinner seemed like a great success.

My trip to St. Louis was my first business trip in more than a year. While I have flown for leisure with the family a few times in 2021, it did take a minute to get back into the swing of things. My company has instituted travel restrictions through the remainder of 2021 for a variety of reasons. I was blessed I was able to attend. My hope is that I will be able to go to Vegas to see everyone in a few short months after the holiday season. Wishing nothing but the best to you, your family, friends, and co-workers.

Safety & Risk Management Council
Watching the Weather
Aron Csont, council director

No matter where you are in the country, weather can pose a threat to your work environment. Different parts of the country experience different threats. The time of year will pose different types of weather-related threats on your job sites. Workers should be advised of potential weather threats before they arrive so everyone is prepared and ready for action. With the seasons currently changing we will focus on upcoming hazards.

What types of weather are your jobsites facing and what should you look for?

Summer is ending, however we may still face the potential of extreme heat. Make sure employees have access to drinking water to stay hydrated.

Hydration Tips:
When working in the heat, drink 1 cup (8 ounces) of water every 15 to 20 min.

Foods that keep you hydrated:
Watermelon. Water Content: 92%
Strawberries. Water Content: 91%
Cantaloupe. Water Content: 90%
Peaches. Water Content: 89%
Oranges. Water Content: 88%

Thunderstorms / Severe Weather: With summer ending and colder weather approaching the potential for severe weather increases. If there is lightning near your work area exterior work should be shut down immediately, especially anyone in elevated equipment, on roofs, or working in open areas. Storms can be unpredictable, so notifying employees of the potential threats are key to having everyone prepared to act if needed.

Severe Weather Tips:
Set your project up to receive weather alerts.
Review your severe weather mustering areas frequently.
Watch out for wind.
Have pumps on hand to address flooding.

Winter Weather: Cold weather will be here before we know it and can impact areas of the country that normally do not experience cold weather conditions. We face the potential for snow and ice which will create slipping hazards. Motorized equipment operators should be very cautious as traction will greatly decrease with snow and ice, as well as wet conditions. Cold weather also exposes employees to a higher chance of illness, so everyone should wear clothing that keeps them dry and warm.

Winter Weather Tips:
Clean ice and snow from access areas and work platforms.
Use sand or de-icing materials to prevent slip and falls.
Wear gloves as well as head coverings approved to be worn under your helmet or hard hat.
Watch your footing. Steel beams, steel decks, plywood decks and platforms may be clear in sunny areas but icy in the shade.

If you need additional help with creating or updating your Weather Preparedness Plan feel to reach out to Joe Whiteman, ASCC director of safety services, for assistance.
Concrete Industry Management Program Seeks Donations for 2022 Auction at World of Concrete

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 – is seeking donations for their 2022 CIM Auction to be held at World of Concrete. The auction is Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022 at the Las Vegas Convention Center. A silent auction will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the live auction begins at 1 p.m.

“The proceeds from the 2022 CIM Auction will benefit the CIM National Steering Committee (NSC) and support the current CIM programs at Middle Tennessee State University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Texas State University, California State University – Chico, South Dakota State University, the Executive MBA program, as well as help fund scholarships,” said Ben Robuck, Chairman of the CIM Auction Committee.

Previous auction items have included concrete mixer trucks, cement, skid steers, concrete saws, drills, mixers, vibrators, scaffolding, safety equipment, screeds, fiber transport systems, dust collectors, NDT equipment, decorative concrete tools, water meters, pumps, generators, training sessions, reference books, advertisements, laptop computers, mobile computers, sports memorabilia, sports travel packages, golf packages and vacation travel packages.

Those interested in making a donation should contact CIM Auction Committee Chairman Ben Robuck at ben.robuck@cemex.com or (404) 456-6867.

ASCC Members Receive ACI Honors

Congratulations to ACI award winners Chris A. Forster, Largo, Tustin, CA, and Scott Tarr, North S. Tarr Concrete Consulting, Dover, NH. ASCC past-president Forster is the recipient of the Roger H. Corbeta Concrete Constructor Award and Tarr is receiving the
ACI Concrete International Award. Winners were recognized at the ACI Virtual Concrete Convention, October 17-21.

Ruttura & Sons Win Double Awards

Congratulations to ASCC past president D. Thomas Ruttura, Ruttura & Sons Const. Co., Inc., West Babylon, NY, recipient of ASCC’s annual Owner/Executive Safety Award for 2021. The award was presented at the Annual Conference last month.

In addition, Ruttura & Sons took home the Decorative Concrete Project Awards WOW! Award, honoring the decorative project selected best of show. The winning project was Little Island @ Pier 55, Manhattan, NY. Little Island is a $250M Hudson River Park Trust project which takes the ideas of piers and parks to a new level. A 700-seat amphitheater with a 100-year life cycle was designed in architectural concrete.

ASCC Webinar Series

Wednesday
December 8
3:00 p.m. CST

Current State of COVID Vaccines in the Work Place

Adele L. Abrams, Law Office of Adele L. Abrams

HOTLINE QUESTIONS

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<td>844 - 923 - 4678</td>
<td>833 - 281 - 9602</td>
<td>888 - 483 - 5288</td>
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ASCC members have access to these toll-free numbers for assistance.

Support Our Associate Sustaining Members