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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CONCRETE CONTRACTORS

The VOICE

of the Concrete Contractor

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Message from the Executive Committee

Taking Productivity to the Next Level

Chris Plue

The construction industry is currently seeing huge investments in off-site fabrication. Whether it's the mass timber movement, or factories in California that assemble entire residences and ship them to site, entrepreneurs are trying to capitalize on sub-optimal productivity at the jobsite. Most contractors cite the lack of timely design information as the top contributor affecting productivity. This is one example where technology has made the problem worse.

Before computers, when actual paper prints were the primary means to communicate project details, designs were far more complete. Plans were expensive to print so considerable effort was given to their completeness. This all changed in the digital world where ten different balcony details can be debated until the last minute, and the final choice distributed electronically. This reality forces us to set clear guidelines for the information we need before we start. Based on our ability to plan, a large portion of our fate is determined before we break ground. To be successful in the future, we will need the discipline to push back on a system that wants us to start work with partial information.

Although technology contributed to where we are today, it might also be part of the solution. We now can build the project twice; once in the digital world and a second time on site. Today's modeling software allows us to plan our work and coordinate with other trades in ways that were not possible in the past. ASCC has long been a place where we learn from each other, and this topic deserves our attention. My hope is that through our interactions, we will develop new habits and learn new techniques to get the project information we need earlier, so that we can better plan our work. Taking our information acquisition to the next level can be another example of ASCC contractors leading the industry.

Executive Director's Message

Why Send Someone to the Safety Summit

Bev Garnant

On March 20, ASCC, in partnership with the Tilt-Up Concrete Association (TCA), debuts its Safety Summit, an opportunity for safety directors and others in charge of their company's safety programs, to share challenges and solutions. As I thought about why our members should attend and/or send someone, it wasn't difficult to find reasons:

- Make contacts with peers
- Discuss your challenges and hear how others have improved/fixed those issues
- Bring great ideas back to your company
- Meet ASCC's director of safety services and understand how to use the Safety Hotline, etc.
- Become familiar with all of ASCC's Safety Resources and how to access
- Hear from an ASCC Owner/Executive Safety Award winner about his safety journey
- Share your best practices to make others safer

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

World of Concrete

February 4-7, 2020
Las Vegas, NV

ASCC Safety Summit (in partnership with the Tilt-Up Concrete Association)

March 20, 2020
Houston, TX

Concrete Executive Leadership Forum

Fairmont Orchid
July 16 - 19, 2020
Waimea, HI

Annual Conference

The Chase Park Plaza Royal
September 24 - 27, 2020
St. Louis, MO

Red = ASCC Event

Welcome New Members

Ard Contracting, Inc., Birmingham, AL
Bomanite Sdn Bhd, Georgetown, Penang, Malaysia
Elite Concrete Maintenance, Horsham, PA
Golden Floor Preparation, Inc., Arvada, CO
Hoosier Concrete Construction Inc., Dyer, IN
Lithocrete, Newport Beach, CA
MJ Dean Construction, Las Vegas, NV
Northern Industrial Flooring, Inc., Angola, IN
Royal Construction Inc., Dayton, OH
Swinerton Builders, San Francisco, CA
T&T Ventures LLC, Atlanta, GA
United Surface Preparation, Anoka, MN
Urata & Sons, Rancho Cordova, CA (Rejoin)
Xtreme Elements LLC, Akron, OH

There is no charge to attend. Sponsorships are available for \$1,000.

Sponsors to date include:

Alliance Safety Council

Baker Concrete Construction

Barton Malow

CNA

Conco

Kent Companies

TAS Commercial Concrete Construction

Webcor Concrete

World of Concrete

To register: <https://asconline.site-ym.com/event/2020safetysummit>

DCC/CPC Booth at WOC – New, Improved, and Amazing!

Chris Sullivan, Decorative Concrete Specialist

The World of Concrete is less than a month away, which means its booth time! We need you and a friend to sign up for booth duty! If you have never worked the DCC/CPC outdoor booth, you don't know what you are missing. Here are some of the perks of working the booth at this year's WOC. The DCC and CPC will be unveiling their new, co-branded, outdoor booth, sporting a sleek contemporary design loaded with the latest technology, including restrooms and a relaxation spa. Every 1.5 hour booth duty session is packed with fun activities, free food, open bar, and karaoke by the pool. We expect Kenny Chesney to stop by and play a few tunes. Finally, we will be raffling off a new Ford F-150 every 45 minutes.

Disclaimer: the previous paragraph was a complete fabrication to get your attention. Now that I have it, you need to sign up for booth duty! By the way, the booth is new, and it is really cool. Go to www.asconline.org to sign up on line. I look forward to seeing you in Vegas.

Concrete Polishing Council



Challenges to Overcome in the Polishing Industry

Shawn Halverson, CPC Council Director

Happy New Year! Did you survive 2019? Can you beat your 2019 results in 2020? By now you're either licking your wounds, or high fiving your team.

If you had a good year congratulations, you get to move ahead, keep doing what you did, and set new goals. Looking back at 2019, it's done, chapter closed, can't change it. But what did you learn? Hopefully, lessons to help you prosper in 2020.

Did you hit or exceed your goals? Without goals you have no way to know if you're doing the right things. You can't win if you don't keep score!

If 2019 was a challenge, look back at the lessons you can learn from. We do a monthly meeting to review jobs completed and lessons learned, good or bad. It's important to know your successes and failures to narrow down issues. Was it the bid, not enough manhours, wrong guys running the crew, poor access to sites, job specific things you can correct on the next job? All these are vital to success. Work with your team to review, correct and write procedures for the future. **However your year ended, you have work to do.**

Success in 2020 can happen. Sometimes taking two steps back to move forward is smart business. Learn from 2019 challenges, train the field on new products and machines, test new diamonds, try new things. You might be stuck in a rut because you're not learning from past mistakes.

You should always be tracking your backlog of work, so the goals are met by the sales team. Get the team to be accountable for their duties and push forward. Good luck and make 2020 the best year to date.

Attend the World of Concrete 2020 and see the cool things you're missing! See you there!

Input Needed – Rubbed Finishes

Bruce Suprenant, Technical Director

We need your assistance. Ward Malisch and I are working on a draft of an article on rubbed finishes. Over the past 50 years, there has been much confusion about a rub finish and how it is accomplished. In addition, concrete curing specifications requiring forms to be left in place for 3 to 7 days, and a trend toward stronger concrete mixtures, have made rubbing "green" concrete difficult to impossible. We want to illustrate contractors' concerns with rubbed finishes, specifications, costs and durability. Send photos, info, experiences and job stories to bsuprenant@asconline.org.

Examples of Rubbed Finish—Past and Present

1970: Specifications required a rubbed finish with a carborundum brick on an exposed wall for a county jail in Illinois. The specified concrete strength was 3000 psi at 28 days and the forms were removed in a day. At that time, the fins were removed and the wall was rubbed, creating enough paste to cover bugholes and fine lines.

2015: Specifications required a rubbed finish on the underside of a post-tensioned concrete parking lot exposed deck in Houston. The specified concrete strength was 5000 psi at 28 days and 3500 psi for post-tensioning. On day four, the concrete was too strong to receive a rub finish; as a result, fins and offsets were removed with a hand-grinder, and bugholes had to be filled with additional grout before the surface was sacked.

Strength of the “green” concrete rubbed in 1970 was probably about 500 psi, while the concrete that was to be rubbed in 2015 was about 3500 psi. There is clearly a significant difference in procedures and cost in rubbing 500 psi concrete and attempting to rub, probably grinding, 3500 psi concrete. We need to convey these differences to the design community.

ACI 301 Specifications

Rubbed finishes have been specified by ACI 301 Specifications for Concrete since 1960 including (a) smooth rubbed finish, (b) sand floated finish, (c) grout cleaned finish, and (d) cork floated finish. The 1972 specification discontinued the sand floated finish. The 1996 specification added that a smooth, rubbed finish was to be accomplished after the period required for curing by leaving the forms in place. Early versions of the specification stated that a smooth rubbed finish was to be produced on “green” concrete or “freshly hardened” concrete.

The 2005 version stated: “...produce finish on hardened concrete no later than the day following formwork removal”. And no cement grout is to be used other than paste drawn from the concrete itself by the rubbing process. This creates a conflict with specifications requiring form removal at 3 to 7 days, since the concrete will be too hard to draw paste from the surface. The rub finish then turns to grinding the fins and offsets and adding grout and sacking. This rub to grind/sack creates a changed condition that is rarely recognized and not paid for. Thus the concrete contractor has to absorb the increased cost.

The 2020 version of ACI 301 will be out this year with proposed changes to rubbed finishes. We will keep you posted when the document becomes final.

Safety & Risk Management Council

Jason Anglin, Safety & Risk Management Council

Winter Driving Safety Tip

As we continue to endure the cold weather months, winter driving has the potential to be hazardous. Often accidents and incidents can be avoided by simply preparing and planning.

PREPARE

Maintain Your Car – Keep your windows clear and regularly check the battery, tire tread, windshield wipers, no-freeze washer fluid, and antifreeze.

Stock Your Car – Make sure to have a flashlight, jumper cables, abrasive material (i.e., sand, kitty litter, floor mats), shovel, snow brush and ice scraper, warning devices (i.e., flares) and blankets. For longer trips, take food, water, medications, a cell phone, and back-up batteries.

Stopped or Stalled? Stay in your car, don’t overexert, put bright markers on the antenna or windows, and turn on the dome light. If you run your car to stay warm, be sure to clear the exhaust pipe and run it only enough to stay warm.

PLAN

Know Your Route – Allow plenty of time and check the weather before you leave to know if you should head out early. Be familiar with the directions, and let others know your route and arrival time.

Practice Cold Weather Driving – Steer into a skid to know what your brakes will do (stomp on antilock brakes, pump on non-antilock brakes). Remember that stopping distances are longer on ice, water and snow, and don’t idle for long periods of time with the windows up.

Protect Yourself and Your Children – Buckle up and use child safety seats properly. Never place a rear-facing infant seat in front of an air bag and keep children 12 years of age and younger in the back seat.

Prevent Accidents – Slow down and increase distances between cars. Keep your eyes open for pedestrians walking in and along the sides of the road, get plenty of rest before the trip, and stop at least every three hours and rotate drivers if possible.

Stay focused and keep yourself, coworkers and your family safe this winter

See the January 2020 Issue of Concrete International for Three Significant Articles Associated with ASCC

On page 19, a letter to the editor from David R. Lankard, president and petrographer, Lankard Materials Laboratory, Columbus, OH, validates ASCC Position Statement #44, "Measuring Air Content in the Non-Air-Entrained Concrete," which was refuted by NRMCA in an earlier letter.

Pages 54-55 is the fourth Position Statement from the Concrete Polishing Council. The topic is "Separation of Semirigid Concrete Floor Joint Fillers."

Pages 71-72, the "Concrete Q & A" for the month, is a question and a summary of answers on "Streaks in a Polished Concrete Slab." This question was submitted to our Contractor Email Forum and the replies summarized by ASCC technical director Dr. Bruce Suprenant.

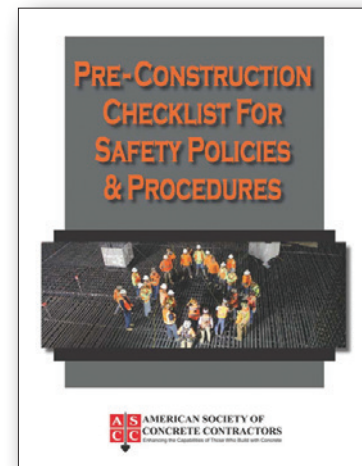
ASCC Congratulates Members Involved in ENR's 2019 Best Projects in the Midwest



ASCC congratulates members involved in ENR's Best Projects in the Midwest for 2019: **Kiewit Infrastructure Corp.**, general contractor, M-Line (The Hop), Milwaukee, WI; **Baker Concrete Const.**, concrete contractor, National Veterans Memorial and Museum, Columbus, OH; **Alberici Constructors**, general contractor, Ottumwa Generating Station Selective Catalytic Reduction, Ottumwa, IA; **Barton Malow Co.**, construction manager, Shinola Hotel, Detroit, MI. The projects were showcased in the Nov. 18/25, 2019 issue of ENR.

Safety Pre-Construction Checklist

ASCC has developed a Pre-Construction Checklist for Safety Policies and Procedures. Because the importance of safety can in no way be overestimated, it seems most appropriate to have a document solely focused on this aspect of projects. The checklist instigates conversation and raises issues before they become problematic.



HOT LINE QUESTIONS

CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION

800-331-0668

Bruce Suprenant
ascchotline@asconline.org

POLISHED CONCRETE

844-923-4678

Chris Sullivan
csullivan@asconline.org

SAFETY & INSURANCE

833-281-9602

Joseph Whiteman
jwhiteman@asconline.org

DECORATIVE CONCRETE

888-483-5288

Chris Sullivan
csullivan@asconline.org

ASCC members have access to these toll-free numbers for assistance.

Webinars begin at 3:00 p.m. CST

Jan. 29, 2020	Constructability: The Key to a Successful Project Between the Engineer and the Contractor	Michael Schneider, Baker Concrete Construction, Inc.
Feb. 12, 2020	The New 2020 SEO Formula for Concrete Service Providers	Danny Barrera, Concrete Marketing Crew

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