



## **ASCC Concrete Executive Leadership**

### **Forum**

July 15-18, 2021

Fairmont Orchid, Waimea, Hawaii

### **ASCC Annual Conference**

September 23-26, 2021

St. Louis, MO

## ***Message from the Executive Committee***

### **What We've Learned**

#### **Chris Plue, Past President**

As we close out 2020 and look ahead to 2021, it has been a challenging year for many of our members. The backlog of work has decreased and uncertainty about the future has increased. Many companies have had to make difficult decisions around reducing staff. Industry events have been postponed or cancelled. Yet with all the difficulties brought on by the pandemic, we still have things for which we are thankful.

We are grateful that construction has been deemed an essential business. This has kept existing projects moving forward and thousands employed. We have learned new ways to stay connected and do our jobs virtually using technology. We have seen people pull together to help the less fortunate. The shelter in place orders have brought families closer together.

We continue to see ASCC contractors lead the industry by demonstrating how we can do our work in a pandemic while maintaining safe production. Members have consistently chosen to do the right thing to protect others. We have developed new practices to keep our projects moving forward while wearing face coverings and maintaining physical distance. Other contractors have seen our work and followed our lead. Many of these new practices will outlast the pandemic and become standard operating procedures.

Collaboration and communicating best practices have always been a strength of ASCC members and this strength has once again proven that when we work together, we can change construction for the better.

## ***Executive Director's Message***

### **Ring in the New**

#### **Bev Garnant**

All I want to say about 2020 is that despite all the craziness that was added to the lives of each one of you, your support of, and devotion to ASCC never wavered. You still gave of your time and treasure to keep us moving and doing for members. Every council and committee has been active and productive, and we added two new task groups: Workforce Development and Hardhats to Helmets. I want to thank all of you who participated in any way for giving your precious time to this organization. Thanks also to the ASCC staff who immediately adjusted to working remotely and ZOOM meetings and have done an exemplary job.

I also want to thank and acknowledge Chris Forster for his two years as president, the last one of those which he certainly didn't see coming. Please raise your hand if you'd like to be ASCC president during a global pandemic. Though we had to make difficult decisions and deal with unforeseen circumstances, Chris' calm demeanor and thoughtful consideration were always what I found on the other end of the phone line. His experience in the industry, with ASCC, and with ACI came to bear at the right time, and I always felt sure-footed as we found our way through this new normal. Even when we cancelled the CELF and Chris learned he would never occupy the President's Suite of the Fairmont Orchid, Hawaii, he never whined. Thanks so much Chris for a great two years.

I want to welcome Bill Bramschreiber, Charles Pankow Builders, as president for 2021-22. I've worked with Bill on the ASCC board, the Executive Committee, and the SRMC board, and recognize the same good judgement I have found in all our ASCC presidents, a select group I've been privileged to work with. I look forward to Bill's tenure as we define our "post-pandemic" association.

Happy New Year ASCC!

## ***Technical Concrete Construction Specialist***

### **WWR Lap Splice Requirements**

**Jim Klinger**

#### Hotline Question

"We have a project featuring a 6-inch thick concrete slab-on-ground over an 85,000 SF footprint of prepared subgrade. Reinforcing for the slab is plain welded-wire mesh (WWR 6x6). We installed the WWR using a lap splice of one square overlap, or 6 inches. The project inspector has rejected the laps, saying they must be one square plus 2 inches, or 8 inches total, minimum. The inspector is citing ACI 318-19, section 25.5.4, which covers plain wire WWR tension lap splices for structural slabs. While ACI 318-19 does call for the lap length cited by the inspector, we don't agree with his interpretation. Neither the structural construction documents nor the WWR shop drawings indicated lap splices. How can we prove our installation is fit for purpose and acceptable?"

#### Hotline Answer

Since the WWR lap splice requirements are not available in the construction documents, it appears the inspector has mistakenly referred to Chapter 25 or the ACI 318 building code as a default to support his decision. We believe the as-placed WWR is likely to be accepted by the LDP with little or no rework required. Here's why.

The non-structural slab-on-ground on this project was probably designed per ACI 360: Design of Slabs-on-Ground. By definition, such slabs are supported by the ground with the main purpose of transmitting all applied loads through bearing onto a properly prepared subgrade. Examples of non-structural slabs include industrial, commercial, and residential slabs intended to carry material loads, storage rack loads, and any static or moving loads from equipment and vehicles.

The WWR in the slab actually contributes very little to its load-carrying capacity. The slab thickness and proper preparation of the subgrade provides that. The WWR is used only for control of concrete slab shrinkage cracks.

Since the design requirements for non-structural slabs-on-ground are specifically excluded from the ACI 318-19 building code, section 1.4.8, the LDP typically uses design guides prepared by ACI, CRSI, WRI and so on. The LDP can also rely on past experience with similar slabs. Once the slab is designed, the LDP is required to show locations and details of all reinforcement, including all lap splices.

So, if the WWR is only needed for crack control in a non-structural slab-on-ground, what is the correct lap splice to use with plain wire mesh?

To answer this we checked ACI 439-5R-18: Guide for Specification, Manufacture and Construction Use of Welded Wire Reinforcement. In section 6.4, the lap splice indicated for plain wire WWR is one square, plus 2 inches. This is essentially the same ACI 318 lap splice for plain wire used in structural slabs.

Next, we found an old WRI design guide dated 1999 that contained the following note to slab designers:

"ACI 318 does not cover splices for slabs-on-ground. WRI believes and many engineers agree that the strength of the reinforcing in most slabs-on-ground is not utilized to the full yield strength. Most slabs-on-ground utilize less than 50% of the yield strength of the reinforcement. Therefore, splices need only to be sufficient to secure the sheets of WWR together. The minimum splice is 2" plus overhangs.

If the engineer believes the full strength of the reinforcing will be required, then the splice equations in Chapter 12 apply”.

We contacted a WRI representative for more current guidance for splicing of plain wire WWR in non-structural slab applications.

Although the note to designers cited above no longer appears in the WRI design guide, the LDP is free to call out any splice length that can be proven sound to the local authority having jurisdiction e.g., building department. The trend appears to be for engineers to simplify the design process, avoid doing calculations, and use the conservative default splice lengths used in ACI 318 for structural slabs. In other words, it is totally up to the engineer to determine the lap splice required, if any. But you're likely to see the one square plus 2 inches lap on your next project.

UPDATE: In a follow-up phone call, we learned that the ASCC member discussed the existing installation with the project LDP, who agreed the one-square lap was indeed fit for purpose and acceptable.

## **Concrete Polishing Council**

### **Challenges in the Polishing Industry: Another Thing That Costs Us Money and My Exit Shawn Halverson, council director**

Last month I talked about scheduling. The other side of that is showing up on the job when they're not ready for us. UGH. Wasted time on the road, loading trucks etc.

I assume we are all good at planning our jobs out. This probably includes many calls, onsite meetings, and multi-page schedules as to when we should be onsite. But how many times do you show up and the space is crowded with other trades, the floor littered with dirt, tools, materials? Or worse yet, the job is done and there are cabinets and carpet adjacent to the workspace.

How can we remedy these problems? You cannot! They are in control. They set the schedules. They control us. We can help, but it puts more pressure on us to be prepared. Day before start day calls, emails, double and triple check. A long string of emails to plan this out with dates, start times, areas of our scope that will be ready, where we can unload etc. etc. etc. until they are tired of us bugging them. It seems like we need to be the rock in their shoe to get their attention to something so minor to them, but costly to us. Good luck.

I hope you all realize that most of my articles were from the heart and the real company struggles we face as we grow and try to survive business. My experiences come from (cough cough) wholly crap, 45 years in construction. These are some of the many challenges we face daily. ASCC is here to help with tools such as pre-construction checklists, position statements, etc.” They have a ton of materials and good guidance to help you through these challenges.

So, having said all that..... My exit has arrived. I am not leaving the CPC, just stepping down as council director and handing the gavel to Scott Metzger; he is so excited.

Being the director allowed me to see the many benefits to being part of the CPC. I have been involved for four years and four more years with our previous group Concrete Polishing Association of America (CPAA). There have been many changes to our industry in those eight years. It really makes it all worth it to see us grow and the industry prosper in so many ways.

**First**, I have had the opportunity to meet and talk to so many polishers. We have a great group in this country and around the world. It's really cool to talk polish and the challenges we face no matter where we are.

**Second**, our member network is there for each other no matter where you're from, I have personally utilized our membership in time of need and felt extremely comfortable in asking for help. Everyone responded so kindly. It was a great feeling that we share a common interest in polishing and in helping our fellow contractor. I have on many occasions shared a job with a competitor or ally to ease my work load and share the work with others.

**Third**, the manufacturer members really go out of their way to build confidence between us. So many times I have been able to reach out to a manufacturer who is part of our CPC network and

get an answer to a problem instantly, or help with finding the product I need in my area. They all are wonderful folks, and their companies are trying to better our industry. Please support them.

**Lastly**, the young ladies at the ASCC/CPC home office in St. Louis. They have helped and guided me through this position since day one and I hope they will continue this relationship even after I am gone. I am not dying. Haha. Jill has her fingers on the heartbeat of this CPC group and is a valuable resource for us all. Becky has stepped into the ASCC and CPC as well as many other tasks. She is constantly reminding members of the benefits and things we forgot about since we signed up. I consider these two friends and to you all if you need help. There is a whole team in St. Louis that works to keep this group moving forward besides these two outstanding people.

Thank you for listening to me for a couple of years and I look forward to continuing to meet new polishers around the country as we push forward into the future.

## ***Decorative Concrete Council***

### **DCC Awards: Call for Projects**

**Chris Sullivan, decorative concrete specialist**

This is a reminder that the DCC will be honoring the best decorative projects of 2021 through the annual DCC Decorative Concrete Awards. Yes, we are planning on having the awards program live and in person, which is exciting considering the events of the last year. The awards presentation will be held during the ASCC Annual Conference, September 23-26 in St. Louis. We are currently accepting submissions for all categories until March 31, 2021. [More information is here.](#) I want to personally ask all ASCC contractor members that produce any decorative work to consider submitting a project in 2021. The more submissions we receive the higher the bar we set for the industry.

In 2019 the Decorative Concrete Council (DCC) unanimously approved moving the DCC Awards presentation to the Annual Conference held each fall. The group felt the awards program, and all involved, would be better served by having the DCC awards presented at the annual awards dinner held during the conference each year, instead of a small gathering at the World of Concrete, which had been the case for many years.

I strongly believe that in the years to come we will look back and realize that the construction industry was the economic rock that held fast and carried the US through the pandemic. With that in mind, let us not forget those companies that carried on, producing high quality work, even with masks, social distancing, and outbreaks. I can't think of a better way to recognize these leaders then by highlighting and celebrating their work.

The Decorative Concrete Council Awards Program has become the decorative concrete industries premier program which recognizes outstanding decorative concrete projects around the world. The project awards are open to both ASCC members and non-members. The 2020 DCC awards had a record number of submissions and we thank everyone who participated.





2020 WOW! Winner: Brattleboro Bridge by Superior Gunite, Jersey City, NJ

### ***2021 DCC Project Awards Submission***

To view the awards brochure and see more information about submitting online, [please visit our website.](#)

**Narrow Road Ahead**  
**Karen Keyes, council director**

I remember learning to drive around the office when I was younger, and my father shared a story with me about teaching my older sister how to drive on the same property. Behind the garages are two bollards, spaced perfectly for a vehicle to fit through. He shared how when my sister was learning how to drive and doing laps around the building, every time she got to that point, she would hold her breath and close her eyes to squeeze through the opening – hoping she didn't hit anything. His point being, keep my eyes open so I don't ding up his truck. But, every time I drive through a narrow opening, I take a deep breath and remember that moment. In fact, it happened just last week when driving through a construction zone and swearing the concrete barricades were too close together. This made me stop and think about how often we do that in life and business.

As we enter 2021 and as I close out my term as council director of the DCC, I want to remind everyone not to just hold your breath and hope you make it. There are going to be narrow roads ahead just as before, but I have learned in the past few years that there are many reassurances that we can carry with us to give us the confidence to keep going forward.

ASCC offers some of those reassurances. If you are not part of a MIX Group, I strongly encourage you to join one this year – the group you team up with can give honest feedback to help you through any narrow roads and give insight into potential detours. ASCC offers a multitude of training resources through webinars, discounts on ClickSafety, the Annual Conference, and all the wonderful resources they distribute when you join. Dust off the position statements, toolbox talks, and safety video and arm yourself with knowledge for the confidence needed to keep going forward. And, as I have said in the past, the community is the biggest area where I've found reassurance. When COVID struck, I knew I could call anyone at ASCC and they would help. When I had a concrete detail question, I knew the email forum would help. When I just needed to talk concrete with someone else – anyone of my DCC friends and colleagues are always there. There is no reason that you have to drive the road alone and just hope for the best. Arm yourself in 2021 with the best concrete resources available and drive on confidently knowing that there is an entire community supporting you and your business.

## ***Safety & Risk Management Council***

### **Safety Moments: The Value in Sharing Lessons Learned Joe Whiteman, director of safety services**

One of the many great benefits of being an ASCC member is the knowledge base that comes with it. We pride ourselves on the quality of our members and the professionalism they bring to the association.

Whether it be experience with technical knowledge, operations, or means and methods, each member has their own specialty and experience with a certain topic. We at ASCC strive to do our part to share and provide members the opportunities to utilize each other as trusted resources. One great way we have been encouraging members to do this is the Safety Moment, an agenda item for all ASCC meetings.

The Safety Moment kicks off every ASCC meeting. It sets the tone and reinforces ASCC's commitment to safety by showing the priority of safety as being the first topic discussed. The Safety Moment provides everyone in the meeting an opportunity to share a near hit, incident, close call or learning moment. It allows the member to share what happened, potential contributing factors and corrective or mitigating efforts they have implemented. This provides tremendous value to others in the meeting as they are made aware of all the factors pertaining to the Safety Moment, along with the "Cliff's Notes" on what they need to do to ensure the same thing does not happen to them.

Sharing this knowledge is tremendously helpful and impactful. As part of the Safety and Risk Management Council's (SRMC) strategic plan, a strategy currently being implemented is sharing those Safety Moments with all members, not just those in attendance at the meetings. To do that we will be making those available on the website. I would like to encourage all members to share their Safety Moments. As I mentioned earlier, we are each other's best resource and can learn so much from one another without having to learn it the "hard way." Please feel free to reach out to me through the safety hotline, or email me at [jwhiteman@ascconline.org](mailto:jwhiteman@ascconline.org) to share your Safety Moment. Stay tuned as we develop and update the website; Safety Moments will be a new feature on the safety page.



## ***ACI Winter Concrete Forum Webinars***

The Winter Concrete Forums presented by the National Concrete Pavement Technology Center are now open for registration. These forums will take place during the lunch hour from noon to 1:00 p.m. Central and you must be registered to attend.

- **January 22** - Subgrade & Subbase: Iowa DOT Research and Next Steps

Hear how the Iowa DOT is working to improve design and testing of subgrade and subbase layers for concrete pavements.

- **February 5** - Troubleshooting: Concrete Projects

Tips, tricks and advice for sorting through common problems during concrete pavement construction.

- **February 19** - Concrete Industry and the Environment – Sustainability and How Concrete is Reducing its Environmental Impact. Learn how the cement and concrete industries are moving forward in the 21st century to adapt to environmental needs and reduce their carbon footprint.

- **March 5** - Construction Inspection – Just in Time Inspection Refresher

Whether you will be building or inspecting, gear up for a new year of concrete pavement construction with a refresher course on best practices.

Attendance is FREE and 1 hour PDH certificates will be provided. To register, please email [Melisse Leopold](mailto:Melisse.Leopold@ncttc.org) with the following information: name, organization, email and dates you would like to attend.

## ***World of Concrete Presents the 360 2021 Virtual Industry Forum***

This virtual forum will highlight WOC360.com as the concrete and masonry industries' meeting place for exchanging ideas, techniques, and innovations. Share insights with industry leaders on how to prepare your business for 2021, and invest in innovative ways of working, connecting, learning and sharing information.

While we look forward to our live event, World of Concrete 2021, June 8-10; Education June 7-10, we understand the need to connect with the concrete/masonry communities at the start of the New Year. WOC360.com is doing just that with a special industry update via the WOC360.com virtual Industry Forum, February 2-4, 2021. It's FREE to participate!

WOC360.com provides access to top-notch industry educators presenting sessions to help you thrive in 2021. This forum will be an interactive event, not your standard webinar. Over three days, Bill Palmer and Rick Yelton will interview a variety of industry experts to prepare you for the big comeback of 2021. Here are a few of the people you will hear from:

- Bob Haas, economics advisor for Sika, will teach us how to work through the vast amount of economic information that barrage your virtual mailbox each day and sort out what makes the difference between profit and loss.
- Jeff Coleman, the leading legal advisor in the concrete industry and current ACI president, will review the legal issues contractors face and how to avoid them.
- Dean Frank and Ryan Smith will discuss how modular offsite construction will affect cast-in-place concrete construction.
- Scott Tarr, Neil Roach, and Jon Hansen will discuss flatwork advances, including jointless industrial floors, polishing large industrial floors, and exterior industrial pavements.
- Bill Palmer and Rick Yelton will review innovations changing our industry, from admixtures to equipment to new materials. Software and Technology: During the pandemic, technological solutions have become even more important. Learn what technology will dominate in the next few years and what new tools are on the horizon.
- Wayne Rivers and his team at the Family Business Institute will explore the future of smart business after the pandemic subsides—what to do and not to do now.



We are also excited to launch as part of this event, the Product Discovery Zone, where suppliers will highlight new & innovative products to increase your productivity and help you do business in 2021 and beyond. All sessions and the Product Discovery Zone will remain online until March 30, 2021.

[VIEW THE ENTIRE PROGRAM AND REGISTER FOR FREE TODAY!](#)

### **Upcoming ASCC Webinars**

**February 10, 2021**

**Fiberglass Rebar & Dowels**

Callie Elmore & Jon Fischer, Owens Corning

**March 10, 2021**

**How to Win with Facebook Ads in 2021**

Ryan Davis, Davis Construction Marketing

Webinars begin at 3 pm CST. [Register Here](#)

### **HOTLINE QUESTIONS**

#### **CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION**

Jim Klinger  
ascchotline@asconline.org  
800 - 331 - 0688

#### **POLISHED CONCRETE**

Chris Sullivan  
csullivan@asconline.org  
844 - 923 - 4678

#### **SAFETY & INSURANCE**

Joe Whiteman  
jwhiteman@asconline.org  
833 - 281 - 9602

#### **DECORATIVE CONCRETE**

Chris Sullivan  
csullivan@asconline.org  
888 - 483 - 5288

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

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