

Contents

- Executive Committee
- Executive Director's Message
- Decorative Concrete Council
- Decorative Concrete Specialist
- Concrete Polishing Council
- Technical Director
- Safety & Risk Management Council
- Webinars

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CONCRETE CONTRACTORS

The VOICE of the Concrete Contractor

FEBRUARY 2020



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Message from the Executive Committee

Strategic Planning For Our Future

Chris Forster, President

On January 8 and 9, 2020, a group of ASCC members met in St Louis at the ASCC offices to review the last Strategic Plan and to create a revised plan to present to the board of directors, setting a path forward for the next few years. Representation from the SRMC, DCC and CPC were in attendance to provide input. The discussions were very engaging and all participants were open to new ideas and suggestions to further the mission of the organization.

The Process

A draft Philosophy Statement was developed to help guide us as we reviewed our mission statement, vision, strategies, and goals. We looked at the current versions of the various statements and proposed revisions to better reflect the organization as it exists today. Many changes have occurred since the last strategic plan was developed. We have more members, the Concrete Polishing Council was formed, member benefits have increased substantially, and the industry continues to evolve.

We discussed what type of organization we should be, one that serves its members daily and are there to help individual needs, or one that should be more generic, focusing energy on industry influence that may benefit all members of the organization thru research, knowledge transfer, document revisions and financially supporting initiatives that further our mission.

The "plan" draft will be presented to the board this spring for their action. Having a plan to move the organization forward has proven successful in the past, and I am sure will continue to help us be successful as we move forward. The councils of the organization are developing council specific strategic plans as well that will support the overall plan of the organization.

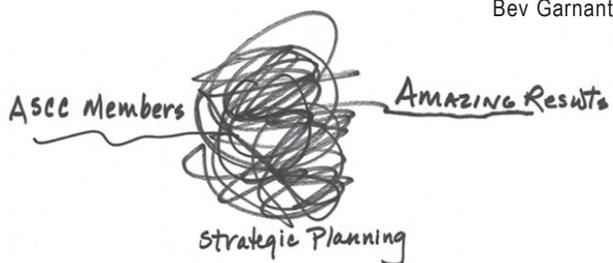
Strategic planning, when properly developed, is such an important part of an organization's successful path forward, and when put into place provides the basis for everyone in the organization to be on the same page and accomplish the goals established. As you think of your organization, consider how the strategic planning process might be of value to your company's future, and what benefits you might see from having everyone moving towards common goals.

Be safe, Chris Forster

Executive Director's Message

I was part of two strategic planning processes last month, ASCC's and the Decorative Concrete Council's. With both, a group of smart, experienced, visionary individuals came together to craft a new strategic plan.

The groups worked differently. Facilitated by Peter Emmons, those working on the ASCC plan recorded everything digitally.



INDUSTRY CALENDAR

ASCC Safety Summit (in partnership with the Tilt-Up Concrete Association)
March 20, 2020
Houston, TX

ACI Spring Convention
March 28 – April 1, 2020
Rosemont, IL

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

World of Concrete
January 19 – 22, 2021
Las Vegas, NV

Red = ASCC Event

Welcome New Members

4 Men Pour Concrete Services, St. Paul, Alberta, Canada
B & B Concrete Placement, Inc., Romulus, MI
Elegance Construction, Inc., Agoura Hills, CA
Hemma Concrete, Marietta, GA
Industrias Quoklean, Mexico City, Mexico
Magni Telescopic Handlers, Roselle, NJ
Pan Technology, Inc., Carlstadt, NJ
Perfect Polish, Norris, TN
RMI, Ocilla, GA
Rock Hard Concrete, St. John, IN
Sellen, Seattle, WA
Sudlow Concrete, Tucker, GA (Rejoin)
US Formliner, Athens, GA
Valley Point Corp., Secaucus, NJ
Wyco Tool, Milwaukee, WI (Rejoin)

They reviewed the 2017 plan but quickly moved to the new; where do we go next, dreaming big, but realistically, about what ASCC could successfully manage.

The DCC group reviewed their 2017 plan, discussed the results, did a SWOT analysis, and covered the flip chart pages decorating the walls with colored dots.

At both there was great participation. Sharp people with great ideas and input, with good questions and the ability to pushback when something struck them as improbable. Both processes looked like the sketch on page 1, which is how I think it should be. Can you imagine a strategic plan that came from a process that looked like this?

Or even this?



Good strategic planning comes from questioning the heart of what you're doing. That can be uncomfortable and messy. In addition to the new strategic plan, the ASCC group drafted an organizational philosophy to affirm what we're about; something we've not done before. The ASCC and DCC boards will review the plans and approve or make changes. I'm excited to share them with you in the near future.

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

DCC Technical Documents Available on Website

Chris Sullivan, Decorative Concrete Specialist

In recent DCC meetings and monthly calls there has been discussion about updating and or creating new technical documents pertaining to decorative concrete. This has been well received, as it has been some years since new documents have been published. As the group moves forward I want to remind the membership that there are currently great resources on the DCC technical documents page on our website. There are three Best Practice documents and eight Problems & Practice documents available for download. Many of these documents deal with common issues installers face every day and can be used to educate a professional third-party. In many cases, providing the document as a member of the ASCC / DCC is enough to convince a client one way or another on a matter of dispute. If you have not been on the site recently, I suggest you take a minute and have a look. A current list of documents available on the DCC technical document page. <https://asconline.org/decorative-concrete-council/technical-documents>

- Best Practice 1: “Surface Tears in Textured Stamped Concrete”
- Best Practice 2: “Curing Textured Stamped Concrete”
- Best Practice 3: “Trowel-Finished Integrally Colored Concrete”
- Problems & Practice #1: “Appearance Requirements for Colored Concrete Slabs”
- Problems & Practice #2: “Base Preparation for Slabs on Grade”
- Problems & Practice #3: “Preconstruction Meeting for Acid Stained Floors”
- Problems & Practice #4: “Curing Decorative Concrete”
- Problems & Practice #5: “Jointing and Crack Control in Decorative Concrete Applications”
- Problems & Practice #6: “Efflorescence and Colored Concrete”
- Problems & Practice #7: “Responsibility for Moisture Testing Concrete Floors”
- Problems & Practice #8: “What’s in Your Concrete?”

Decorative Concrete Council

ASCC Lifeline

Karen Keyes, DCC Council Director

Remember the show “Who Wants to be a Millionaire?” and the lifelines? Lately, I have been using ASCC as my lifeline and, have been blown away by the expert advice I received. As Decorative Concrete Council members, we often forget the additional resources ASCC offers outside just our DCC community. On one project, I have already used three lifelines:

Lifeline #1: Ask the Expert – I had a technical question, so for the first time, I had my foreman call Bruce on the Technical Hotline. Bruce got back to my foreman right away, with valuable insight that we used on the project. I was able to follow-up with Bruce about some of additional information our client was requesting, and even talked to him about the issues at the DCC/CPC Bash at the World of Concrete. His expertise and knowledge of industry resources saved us time and money on the job.

Lifeline #2: Phone a Friend – I use this lifeline a lot. The friends that I call upon frequently are those in my MIX Group. When I have a random concrete question that they most likely have come across in their work, I shoot out a text to my MIX Group. They reply almost immediately with valuable insight and genuine helpfulness.

Lifeline #3: Ask the Audience – When I need to research new technologies outside of my immediate circle, I ask the audience – aka the ASCC Email Forum. The responses on the forum from experts in the field are honest, unbiased, and help me think beyond the decorative concrete world that I know and love.

The ASCC is no game show, and I haven't become a millionaire yet... but the lifelines have no other comparison in this industry. I'm grateful for the connections this organization has, and if you haven't utilized their lifelines yet, I strongly encourage you to do so. And unlike the game show, there is no limit to how many lifelines you use.

Concrete Polishing Council



Challenges to Overcome In the Polishing Industry

Shawn Halverson, CPC Council Director

2020 World of Concrete is over.

Did you go? Did you see all you wanted to see?

Another year has passed and this year's WOC was, like most, a great success if you like cool toys and tools, and meeting great people from all over the world.

It allowed us to see all the latest and greatest ideas for concrete placement, delivery, pumping, polishing, staining, and many more things to get ideas flowing....

So, what was your takeaway?

Hopefully you participated in classes to further your knowledge of everything under the sun when it comes to concrete. Did you walk the show or try some hands-on tool testing?

Did you get a chance to attend the polishing luncheon? Four speakers, me included, talked about using ride-on-trowels for polishing. It was a sold-out luncheon, like usual, and I hope those who attended learned something valuable they can take back to their companies. My topic was how much it takes to make a trowel work, based on the other tools you need to get the job done. It's not just about buying a rider!

We discussed job size, large or small; being creative with where it fits; extra protection for walls, use of an auto scrubber to pick up slurry; disposing of slurry; moving the machine to the job and back; special trailers; and the timing of where it fits best into the schedule. By a show of hands, only a few have already made the purchase.

Like many tools, a rider may sit in your shop a while until the right job comes along. But when it does, this tool will do its best to make up time by its ability to polish very quickly, compared to the typical walk behind grinder.

Our company and many others see the value in its abilities even though, the costs can be high, the transportation required, and learning a new variation of how you process the floors; a big learning curve.

From the responses I got, I think the topic was interesting, it raised peoples' curiosity, and I believe most went outside to look at riders.

Obviously polishing is not a fad as we were told years ago. With the advancement of machines, new diamond technology, inventive companies, inventive contractors, and good maintenance programs, it's here to stay.

Now that I'm home I can't wait for another year to see what our industry brings next year. **WOC 2021 is only 49 weeks away.**

The Beginning – How the ASCC Position Statements Started

Bruce Suprenant, Technical Director

Gym floors in schools—the battle between the concrete contractor and gym floor installers was the beginning of the ASCC Position Statements. Concrete contractors were meeting the F-numbers stated in the project specifications but the gym floor installers were not happy with the concrete surface. They did not like the F-number system and wanted an 1/8 in. in 10 ft. radius, measured when they arrived on site. They said that according to the Maple Flooring Manufacturers Association (MFMA), F-numbers didn't apply to them. Concrete contractors said—say what? Maple who?

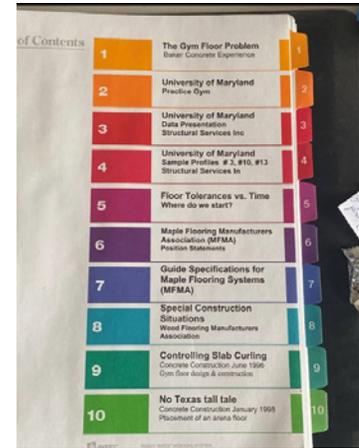
This battle took place in the late 1990's and early 2000's. I was at Baker Concrete at the time and we had been battling gym floor installers over projects across the US. At the time, Baker was constructing a new gym for the University of Maryland. They had won the NCAA basketball championship in 2002. At that time, concrete contractors could not convince others that F-numbers changed with time, and that the gym floor installer would not see the F-numbers the concrete contractor provided.

Part of the issue was the Commentary of ACI 117-90 "Standard Specifications for Tolerances for Concrete Construction and Materials." It stated "Since neither deflection nor curling will significantly change a floor's FF value, there is no time limit on the measurement of this characteristic." Baker hired Structural Services to measure the F-numbers, first in November 2001 within 72 hours after concrete placement, and second, in May 2002, five months later, when the gym floor installer arrived on site.

The results were as to be expected; the F-numbers changed with time. This information, along with other data, was presented in "The Concrete Floor Tolerance/Floor Covering Conundrum", *ACI Concrete International*, July 2003. As a result of this information, the statement in ACI 117 about F-numbers not changing with time was removed in 2006.

During this time, The Aberdeen Group was hosting the CEO Forum. Ward was at ACI; part of his job was editor of *Concrete International*. I had worked for a number of years at The Aberdeen Group and was responsible for the Forum. At the July 2002 CEO Forum in Carmel, CA, Ward and I both attended and I put together the notebook shown below for a meeting. That included a 30-minute presentation on the gym floor battle and the MFMA Position Statements. It stated: "The MFMA does not acknowledge the use of F-numbers to measure levelness/flatness tolerance in gymnasium slab applications". The buzz at the CEO Forum was if the MFMA could tell the concrete contractor to pound salt with the F-numbers, concrete contractors could develop position statements to tell others to pound salt. Thus the idea for ASCC position statements was born.

The effort to pledge fund this adventure was immediate and passionate. Tommy Ruttura, Ruttura & Sons, and Rocky Geans, L.L. Geans Construction, were outspoken supporters. Five months after the Forum, in January 2003, ACI published Position Statement #1 "Hard Trowel Finish on Air-entrained Concrete". That started a string of 25 ASCC Position Statements, all published by ACI, ending in February 2005. ACI started to publish them again in October 2009. *ACI Concrete International* has continued to publish these with ASCC PS #44 published in June 2019. We anticipate ASCC PS #45 on water-cement ratio to be published this year. In addition, the Concrete Polishing Council (CPC) has published five position statements in ACI Concrete International including #5 in March 2020.



Quite an accomplishment from the beginning in 2002 to having 50 ASCC Position Statements. And still counting.....

Safety & Risk Management Council

Situational Awareness

Michael Schneider, Safety & Risk Management Council

The industry has made much progress over the past few years creating safer working conditions. Today, most accidents occur from unsafe acts, not unsafe conditions. One of the challenges we all face on our projects on a daily basis is keeping our co-workers focused on the task at hand. Staying focused is dependent on our co-workers' attention to Situational Awareness. Situational awareness is the perception of our environment as it relates to time and space. It is recognized as a critical, yet often elusive, foundation for successful decision making. Poor situational awareness has been identified as one of the primary factors in accidents attributed to human error (in other words an unsafe act).

We see evidence of this poor decision making regularly during accident investigations. Examples are co-workers using an improper tie off point. They know they are required to use fall protection, yet they still tie off to an anchor that is insufficient which can lead to serious accidents or a fatality. This is similar to sawing off the tree branch on which you are standing. We often see poor decision making in accidents involving pinch points. How often have we heard of riggers lowering a load onto their foot? One of the most potentially dangerous tasks on our jobs every day is backing up delivery and concrete trucks. What about accidents from using pry bars where our co-workers are not thinking about where the pry bar goes if it slips? Is it located where it can hit you in the mouth, or to the side of the body? It is all about proper body positioning. What about hand injuries? Just about all hand injuries are due to poor situational awareness; not being focused while using a hammer or a power tool.

It is incumbent upon all of us to be aware of our surroundings and to look out for our co-workers. If they are putting themselves in harm's way we must bring it to their attention. Unfortunately, a lot of these things are learned from experience. As we bring new workers into our industry, we must explain how important it is to constantly maintain situational awareness on our jobsites.

HOT LINE QUESTIONS

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

Webinars begin at 3:00 p.m. CST

Mar. 11, 2020	TBD	Neo-Intelligence
April 8, 2020	Monitoring the Maturity of Concrete	Kris Till, Kryton International

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