

July 15-18, 2021
Fairmont Orchid, Waimea, Hawaii

ASCC Annual Conference
September 23-26, 2021
St. Louis, MO

Safety Summit
November 12, 2021
Houston, TX

Message from the Executive Committee

Time Off
Chris Forster, Past President

Huntin', Fishin', and Lovin' Every Day. Every time I hear this Luke Bryan song, I feel the stress of the day disappear as I begin to think of past and future hunting and fishing adventures. Music that helps me release some of the built-up stress we experience in our daily lives. Listen to "Good Times" by Niko Moon; nothing like spending time outside around a campfire with friends and family.

I regularly spend time in the field or on the water, most times with family and friends, most times we are successful in our pursuit, but that is just an added benefit of spending time doing something that takes one's thoughts away from stressors. It's my happy time. It's what keeps me excited about life and work every day.

Although this past year was challenging with COVID-19, through lots of planning, testing, new protocols, etc., I was able to spend time locally in California, and traveling to the Bahamas, Mexico, Panama, and Alaska to experience some of the most relaxing times in one of the most stressful years in construction.

What is it that you do that helps to relieve stress? What is your happy time?

As we once again anticipate travel and industry events in person, do not be shy about asking another ASCC member about their passions outside of work. You will be amazed at how your conversations go and the new friendships you will gain.

Ask Chris Plue about his latest sailing adventure.

Ask Scott Anderson about his latest fly-fishing trip.

Ask Bev Garnant about her most recent book read.

You will see another side of the person that you may not have seen before. They light up.

How many of you remember the salmon fishing adventure on Lake Michigan Paul Albanelli put together for Annual Conference 2011? I fished that evening with Clay and Jeanne Fischer and had an absolute blast. Good Times.

I am really looking forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events this year, in person. Let's make sure we connect and catch up on the Good Times we have missed sharing.

Executive Director's Message

ASCC SAFE
Bev Garnant

This month we debut ASCCSAFE, a quarterly newsletter devoted solely to all things safety. It seems only fitting with the importance ASCC puts on safety, to the point of having a fulltime director of safety services, that we would have a newsletter dedicated to this topic. The newsletter is one of five strategies in the SRMC's Strategic Plan Goal #1: Expand and improve communication between the organization and those responsible for safety in member companies. To do that, we are increasing our safety database, attempting to acquire the contact information of every member's safety professional(s).

The newsletter will cover timely issues, as well as members' journeys to improved safety programs. We'll highlight safety moments shared at ASCC meetings, feature ASCC safety resources, and provide a list of educational and networking opportunities to hear from your peers, hopefully mining tips and tricks to make your lives, and those of your colleagues simpler and safer. Please take a look at ASCCSAFE when it lands in your email and forward it to others in your organization who would benefit.

Concrete Construction Specialist

Blindsided by COVID-19
Jim Klingner

Veteran concrete contractors will tell you one of the worst parts of getting blindsided is that you never see it coming. And so it is with COVID-19. How many are there among us who left World of Concrete last year without collecting our personal copies of "The COVID-19 Owner's Manual" that explains how to navigate the latest obstacle course of government regulations, unpredictable project shutdowns, safety protocols, disruptions in the supply chain and other pandemic hurdles we didn't see coming, yet that continue to financially impact our businesses?

Even more to the point, are concrete contractors entitled to compensation for delays and other COVID-19 cost impacts? If so, who will be funding the entitlement? Owners? Insurance companies? The taxpayers? How should a request for equitable adjustment for COVID-19 impacts be packaged, and when should such a proposal be submitted? Are we really adrift in uncharted waters here, or is this simply a variation of the standard construction project delay claim theme?

Over the past year ASCC has developed a fairly comprehensive online information center designed to help answer member COVID-19 questions. The ASCC website features a [tabbed webpage dedicated to COVID-19 topics](#), where members can access links to a wide assortment of resources collected from government and industry platforms: OSHA, WHO, CDC and others that address jobsite safety protocols, contract language interpretation, insurance topics and business recovery assistance programs. Also included on the ASCC website is a link to a similar online resource center established and maintained by ENR Magazine, a construction/engineering trade publication that includes industry news and updates related to COVID-19 issues.

ASCC members are also able to use our website to access [webinars](#) specifically geared to COVID-19. Sponsored by ASCC and prepared by attorneys (Smith Currie), economists (Sage Policy Group) and industry consultants (FMI), the webinars cover legal, economic and procedural counsel aimed at our ASCC member audience. Each webinar video runs approximately 40 minutes.

In addition to the online resources described above, we recently added a link to a newly-published document prepared by our colleagues at ASCE that provides clarity and counsel to readers seeking to recover costs associated with COVID-19 impacts. Due to copyright restrictions, ASCC cannot provide access to the document itself. We can only provide the link below to the ASCE Library where the document can be purchased in e-book (pdf) format.

Prepared by the ASCE Construction Institute Claims Avoidance and Resolution Committee, the document titled "[COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts on Construction Projects](#)" is specifically aimed at a wide audience of project stakeholders ranging from owners and engineers to contractors and suppliers. The information presented therein will be of interest and value to ASCC members and is well worth the \$40.00 purchase price as described in the condensed review below.

In last month's ASCC Voice, we discussed difficulties surrounding access to technical data and details related to failures, claims and settlements. In similar fashion, published accounts describing COVID-19 cost recovery claims and settlements has yet to go viral.

Reduced to simplest form, construction claims are handled in three stages: submittal, negotiation and settlement. It may be early yet to see accounts revealing intimate negotiation details and settlement dollar amounts. But of the few available resources we've seen, the ASCE publication provides perhaps the best assembly of guidelines that can be reasonably used to both establish credible COVID-19 entitlement and then prepare a submittal requesting an equitable contract price adjustment.

Since every construction contract general conditions language is unique, each must be examined for clauses related to delays and work stoppages. In cases where the contract is silent, change order or even dispute resolution provisions must then be consulted. The first chapter of the ASCE document explores in great detail multiple examples of contract interpretations of delay and work suspension impacts that may be encountered.

One of the most effective ways to establish entitlement for COVID-19 cost recovery is via presentation of a credible schedule impact analysis. In its second chapter, the ASCE document offers nine detailed schedule analysis methodologies that could be used to determine and explain schedule impacts. These examples, of course, do not only apply to COVID-19, but could also be considered by ASCC members for future schedule impact scenarios unrelated to the current pandemic.

Perhaps the greatest value to ASCC members is contained in final Chapter 3. This is where comprehensive checklists and potential cost categories are identified to ensure compensation estimates capture all possible and reasonable costs that should be considered in the request for equitable adjustment submittal. Similar to the schedule delay strategies, the checklists are not COVID-19 specific, and can be filed away to remind us of fair-game line items in future projects.

An important warning is emphasized to the reader throughout the ASCE document that can be paraphrased as follows: "In order to get paid, you must prove you were blindsided by COVID-19. And none of the above will help you if you do not submit your paperwork requesting compensation within the allowable time period stated in your contract".

Concrete Polishing Council

Keeping Things in Perspective
Scott Metzger, council director

If there's one thing I've learned during the pandemic, it's accepting that some things are beyond our control and we often have no choice but to go along for the ride. I spent much of last year almost embarrassed by the good fortune our company had in supplying joint filler, a product that is needed to ensure the smooth operation of critical infrastructure – supply chain warehousing and distribution. Because the pandemic exposed onshore vulnerabilities for inventories here in the states, and led to a further expansion of e-commerce, an added bonus was the explosion of new distribution center construction. 2020 brought record breaking sales, and I took some comfort in the fact that this tide was lifting many boats in our industry, as many of the ASCC/CPC contractors I spoke to were also setting records and coming through the pandemic with more work than they could handle. We were so blessed to be part of an industry that's considered "critical." Then Texas happened...

Even before Winter Storm Shirley struck, raw material supplies for resin-based construction products were drying up. Because many of these products are formulated using byproducts of petroleum refining, and because demand for gasoline and other fuels had been depressed by the pandemic, feedstock supplies were vastly reduced in 2020. Add to that higher than typical demand and planned year-end maintenance shutdowns at refineries, and my industry came into 2021 with letters announcing materials being moved to allocation and new force majeure price increase notices seemingly every week. When Shirley struck Texas and Louisiana, all our suppliers went offline, and two weeks later we are left with severe raw material shortages and no answers as to when supplies will be available. After 2020's good fortune, it appears the pandemic may finally get it's revenge.

There's nothing more frustrating than not being able to fill orders and I'm sure many of our member contractors experienced similar situations last year when a positive test shut down a crew or job site. In past times of crisis, where we would find ourselves unable to supply all orders, and I could tell it was taking a toll on my team, I would often encourage them to keep things in perspective and remind them that we were delivering joint filler, not life-saving medicine. Our shortage might cause a temporary delay on a project site, but no one was going to die because of it. We would do our best, and that's the best that we can do.

For the moment, we know little more about when our supply chain will be "back to normal" than when our post-pandemic lives will be. Living with so many unknowns is a scary thing. But just as with the pandemic, all of us in the construction industry are, or shortly will be, truly in this together. In updating my team last week I closed my email with the note "Please, everyone do your best to remain calm during this near term crisis and continue to conduct yourselves with the grace, empathy and understanding our customers expect from us." I hope that is a sentiment we can all share in our businesses as we continue to live and work in uncertain times.

Decorative Concrete Council

Interesting Sands

Chris Sullivan, decorative concrete specialist

There have been a few emails and calls into the hotline recently asking about mix designs and their impact on the finished look of polished concrete. More specifically, most wanted to know how a specific mix design will impact the amount of sand and aggregate that will be exposed where a medium to deep polish is desired.

These questions bring up an interesting point. The short answer is to always use ACI best practices and mix designs that are approved or proven based on the application. The longer answer opens a conversation that is as complex as concrete itself. What is the percentage of sand and aggregate to the amount of cement? How is the concrete placed, finished, and cured? And most importantly, how interesting are the sands? Yes, you read that correctly, interesting.

I recall a conversation about 10 years ago where I was told by a veteran in our industry that

interesting sand makes for interesting concrete. I was trying to sell an exposed aggregate project that had color hardener specified and I was not having much luck. The color hardener we manufactured used very clean, almost white sand. This was great for color consistency, but not very good for exposed aggregate. When the surface was opened you did not see much variation and the surface was plain. To this day I remember the comment, "your sands are not interesting".

What he meant was that our sand was too clean and uniform. When you think about it, variation in color and texture is a large part of what makes exposed aggregate and deeper ground polished concrete beautiful. I doubt there would be much call for exposure if the color were all the same and there was little variation. In the end we did not win the project and a local standard sidewalk mix was used because the sands were interesting. So back to the original question on mix design and the impact on final sand and aggregate appearance. In the end it is almost impossible to determine this from a mix design on paper. The right answer is do a mockup or sample and see what you end up with.

Leveraging Technology

Jeff Eiswerth, DCC council director

The weather is breaking in the Midwest and Northeast. God willing, we've turned the COVID corner with the warmer weather and vaccine availability. As a follow up to last month's letter I thought I'd drop a few lines about how important I think it is to be organized. With the advent of spring many of us in the ASCC see our workload increase. Being organized allows us and our companies be more effective and efficient. One way to do this is by leveraging mobile technology.

Some of still use pen and paper to keep a day planner. Nothing wrong with this old school method but using an app on your smart phone can help a lot. There are great options available, depending on your comfort level and willingness to learn. At the very least, I suggest using the calendar option on your smart phone. You can set up reminders, sync your phone and computer, and set follow up reminders if needed.

While this is a bit old, I find the tips & tricks useful because it covers both iOS and Android phones in the same blog: <https://blog.youmail.com/2015/11/how-to-make-the-most-of-your-smartphone-calendar/>

Alternatively, there are apps specifically for organization; Evernote for iOS phones and Asana for both iOS and Android. I mention these because they are free, but there are others as well.

Better organization, regardless of your method, not only allows you to be more efficient and effective but might enable you to fit that 'one more thing' into your day. It could be one more sales call or even a 30-minute break to relax and refresh. Lord knows we can all use 30 minutes in a day for ourselves. For me it's typically reading the news online to see what I missed while working. What would you do with more time in the day?



2021 DCC Project Awards

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

Safety & Risk Management Council

Return to Work (RTW) Programs

Jason Anglin, director, Safety & Risk Management Council

A safety program should be focused on preventing unsafe conditions in the workplace and reducing the potential for incidents. When an incident does occur, our programs have clear policies to prioritize care for injuries, ensure the incident is investigated, and share lessons learned for the improvement of workplace safety.

Our programs should also include policies that aid a worker after an injury and assist them to return to work. This is often referred to as a Return to Work (RTW) program. An RTW allows workers who are unable to perform their customary duties due to injury or illness, to return to work in a temporary, limited, or light duty capacity while recovering. An RTW is a proven aid in worker recovery after an injury, and can potentially lower your Experience Modification Rate (EMR). An RTW program can also improve communication between the employer and the Health Care Professional (HCP) treating an injured worker.

When examining an injury, the HCP is creating a treatment plan based on their understanding of the worker's profession. When an HCP doesn't completely understand a worker's role, or know that a company can accommodate a wide range of restrictions, they are more likely to prescribe days away from work rather than workplace restrictions as part of a recovery plan. By having a written RTW, an employer can better inform the HCP, which can aid with the worker's recovery and help avoid the misclassification of an injury.

Some of the essential components for an RTW program are identifying restrictions that can be accommodated at the workplace, and creating physical work descriptions for employment positions. By identifying accommodatable restrictions in the workplace, that information can be used to create a work restriction evaluation form. This can be provided to the HCP to help evaluate if restrictions should be recommended as part of a recovery plan. Physical work descriptions aid HCPs and employees to know the goals for returning to full employment.

A RTW plan is a useful tool to help a company better manage care for their workers and aid in improving communication between employers and medical providers.

Concrete Industry Management (CIM) Program Seeks Donations for 2021 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 2021 CIM Auction to be held at World of Concrete. The auction is scheduled for Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at the Las Vegas Convention Center. The 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 2021 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 and California State University – Chico, the Executive MBA program, as well as help fund scholarships,” said Ben Robuck, Chairman of the CIM Auction Committee. “Industry support is needed more than ever with the addition of South Dakota State University, who will be joining the CIM family of schools beginning fall 2021.”



ACI Awards to ASCC Members

Congratulations to the following ASCC members and staff who have been recently honored by the American Concrete Institute (ACI) for outstanding contributions to the industry: the Henry C. Turner Medal to Baker Concrete Construction; the Roger H. Corbetta Concrete Constructor Award to Steve Lloyd; the Joe W. Kelly Award to Dr. Heather J. Brown; the Arthur R. Anderson Medal to Dr. Bruce A. Suprenant; and the ACI Fellow designation to Bryan Birdwell. The ACI Foundation has recognized Claude Bedard with the JC Roumain Innovation Award, and Michael J. Schneider with the Knowledge to Practice Award. Well done ASCC members!

ASCC Webinar Series

Wednesday
April 14th

3:00pm CST

An Overview of the New ACI 310.1-20 Document
'Specification for Polished Concrete Slab Finishes'

Scott Metzger, Metzger McGuire



Wednesday
May 12th

3:00pm CST

Portland Limestone Cement:
The Evolution of Cement

Mike Collins, Lehigh Cement



REGISTER HERE



HOTLINE QUESTIONS

CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION

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POLISHED CONCRETE

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SAFETY & INSURANCE

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DECORATIVE CONCRETE

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

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