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INDUSTRY CALENDAR

World of Concrete

June 8-10, 2021

Education June 7-10, 2021

Las Vegas, NV

ASCC Concrete Executive Leadership Forum

July 15-18, 2021

Fairmont Orchid, Waimea, Hawaii

ASCC Annual Conference

September 23-26, 2021

St. Louis, MO

Welcome New Members

- Bomanite, Bury, United Kingdom
- Concrete & Site Services, Inc., West Nyack, NY
- Kentucky Concrete Association, Frankfort, KY
- MD Miller, Inc., London, OH
- Meier Construction, Inc., San Diego, CA
- Pro Concrete Design, Riverside, MO

New Safety Bulletin

Portable Ladder Safety

DCC Project Awards Submission Now Open

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

The Recession is Over, Can the Recovery Persist?

Anirban Basu, Chairman & CEO, Sage Policy Group, Inc.

The Business Cycle Dating Committee of the National Bureau of Economic Research announced that the economy entered a recession in February 2020, ending the longest economic expansion in U.S. history. This just in – the recession is over. That might be overstating things to a certain extent, but considering the unknown territory the economy has been in since the beginning of the ongoing pandemic and subsequent shutdown, it's not too unbelievable.

Regardless, the construction industry suffered massive job losses in the early months of the downturn. In March and April, the industry lost a combined 1.1 million jobs. The last time construction saw such rapid job loss in such a short amount of time was in the months following the start of the Great Recession over a decade ago. Construction unemployment rose from 5.5 percent in February, when the threat of the virus was still relatively unknown, to 6.9 percent in March. In April, the month with the most job losses, the rate rose again to 16.6 percent.

Since then, however, construction, as well as the rest of the economy, has trended in a more positive direction. Many states included the industry among “essential” businesses, allowing many contractors to continue work, even as the rest of the economy closed down. As such, employment has recovered rapidly.

According to the latest data, construction has added a combined 658,000 jobs during the months of May, June, July, and August. As a result, unemployment has fallen to 7.6 percent according to the latest data. In fact, the data show that construction has been among the fastest industries to recover. Over the last four months, the industry has recovered 61 percent of the jobs lost in March and April. By comparison, the nation as a whole has only recovered 48 percent of the jobs lost.

With respect to America's construction economy in 2020, the readings supplied by a variety of leading indicators coming into the year proved to be overly optimistic. These readings are not gospel. On the other hand, seldom is there such alignment between the collection of leading indicators, with each of them presently flashing yellow or red with respect to the outlook for nonresidential construction during the quarters ahead.

Though one cannot ignore leading indicators, there are events that can prove them fallible. One wildcard that could produce erroneous construction forecasts is public sector stimulus, including in the form of a sizable infrastructure package. Perhaps the upcoming elections will be the most important in American history after all.

Message from the Executive Committee

Stick-to-itiveness

Chris Klemaske, Vice President

“Resilience is all about being able to overcome the unexpected. Sustainability is about survival. The goal of resilience is to thrive.” Jamais Cascio

This year has definitely been about dealing with the unexpected. My guess would be that if anyone told you back in October 2019 that we would be where we are today you would have thought they were talking about a movie starring Dustin Hoffman. Unfortunately this isn't a movie; it's what life looks like and it has changed how we will look at things forever.

One thing that hasn't changed is how the ASCC approaches challenges. My mom had a word that I always loved, stick-to-itiveness. The leaders and the members of ASCC have continued to adapt and evolve with every new challenge that has come our way, sometimes taking on what at times

seemed impossible. I have found in my years as a member of this organization that no task is too daunting and nothing is too difficult. We have taken on huge projects and challenges and grown. That is not typical of all organizations that I have been a part of and I never take it for granted.

A perfect example of who we are as an organization was alive and on display at our first ever Virtual Annual Conference. I had the opportunity to be a part of several events, starting with the DCC meeting. As Karen Keyes mentioned in her article last month, there were several people in attendance that would not typically have attended the Annual Conference. The participation was great and a lot was accomplished. My next meeting was the ASCC board of directors. It was, as always, a very informative gathering, full of information and filled with diverse ideas and opinions. I left that meeting in awe of our strong leadership and the fact that everyone participating always has the good of the organization and the success of the entire group at the heart of the discussions. I attended the DCC Awards Program and was once again overwhelmed by the amazing work that the Decorative Concrete Contractors install every year. The awards were well attended, well executed and if you haven't watched them yet, make sure you do. Last but not least, I sat in on a round table discussion regarding workforce development and was inspired by the conversation and the leadership of the folks taking on this task.

Every year I leave the Annual Conference rejuvenated and excited about what is next, this year is no different. Do I wish we could have all been together in person sharing these experiences? Of course I do, and I look forward to the time that will be the case once again. Thank you to everyone for working so hard to make this event happen and I look forward to seeing everyone next year in St. Louis.

Executive Director's Message

Are You Struggling? Bev Garnant

I've said before that concrete contractors remind me a lot of farmers; very independent, believing they should be able to solve, or not, all their problems by themselves. Since you took the step of Joining ASCC, it obviously means you understand that organizations can be helpful. So, if you're struggling right now, like a lot of businesses are, it's time to swallow your pride and reach out. It's what we're here for.

If, by chance, you're in a MIX Group, and you're participating as you should, you already know the amazing benefits of that band of brothers and sisters. Those who will 1) take your call, and 2) take the time. If you're not part of a peer group, call that very helpful person you met in the ASCC booth, or call ASCC. We have many more resources that could be of immense help.

- The mentor/mentee program pairs younger/less experienced contractors with seasoned professionals who've been through decades of ups and downs, and became very successful. Those who mentor understand exactly what you're going through. Why repeat the same mistakes they have?
- If you don't feel the need for an ongoing mentor, we have a mentor advisory board stacked with specialists in all areas of business management who will gladly spend some time on the telephone or a Zoom meeting to listen and pass along their best advice.
- Four hotlines are at your beck and call, with Bruce Suprenant (concrete construction), Chris Sullivan (decorative & polished concrete) and Joe Whiteman (safety) on the other end. The hotlines represent years of industry knowledge and experience with their own vast networks at their fingertips, to get you the answers you need. Do not be embarrassed or intimidated. Some of our largest and most successful members call these hotlines every month. They're not magicians but they're darn close.
- I can't tell you how many dollars and tear-outs have been saved with a simple email question to the contractor forum. If you're not on this chain get someone from your company on NOW. Just reading what others ask and answer may prevent a future problem.
- There are many informative webinars archived on the website. Take just a minute to check out the list of topics to see if there might be one you could use right now.
- Our associate members are a wealth of information – call them!
- And always call me. I am quite sure I cannot solve your problem but I will do everything I can to find the person who can. There is no need to go through this especially difficult time alone. You have allies, friends, comrades who've been there, done that. Let them help.

ASCC Working on Constructability Index - Need Case Studies

Bruce Suprenant, Technical Director

For the past few years, ASCC has been reviewing literature on constructability, especially that from the Construction Industry Institute (CII). CII started their constructability efforts in the mid-1980's and have continued with a number of publications. We also reviewed constructability publications by AISC, ASCE, AASHTO, State Departments of Transportation publications and scholarly papers.

ASCC has heard from concrete contractors that the quality of drawings was decreasing. A few years ago, ASCC had informal interviews with contractors that reiterated the same point. We had been following the Council of American Structural Engineers (CASE) and their document "A Guideline Addressing Coordination and Completeness of Structural Construction Documents", first published in 2003, then revised in 2013. ASCC wants to support CASE efforts as a constructability review can't be accomplished without coordination and complete construction documents.

ASCC adopted the CII approach to constructability that utilizes a corporate constructability manager, a project constructability coordinator, and a database custodian to lead the Constructability Index on an informal basis in the design process. We want an Index that will not inhibit owners' imaginations or designers' creativity. We also did not want to create an Index for every building type in different locations. Thus, some of the Constructability Index items in the Concrete Scorecard are more general, to apply as necessary to each concrete project, such as "Adverse Weather." We also included an "Other" category that can be used as needed to create a special item.

The ASCC Technical Committee has reviewed the working document and provided feedback at a September ZOOM meeting. The Concrete Constructability Scorecards for the Constructability Index are shown in the Table. But what's next? We need ASCC contractors to identify projects where constructability efforts occurred, that we can use as case studies to evaluate the index. Don't be shy, volunteer early and often by emailing bsuprenant@ascconline.org.

ASCC Draft for Constructability Index for Cast-in-Place Concrete Buildings	
A. Coordination and Completeness of Drawings (300 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Drawing Coordination (CASE) (100 points)<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. General drawing format<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. BIMii. Architectural-Structural Coordinationiii. Civil-Structural Coordinationiv. MEP-Structural Coordinationb. Structural Drawings (CASE) (122 points)<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. General Structural Drawingsii. General Foundation Systemsiii. Driven Pile Foundation Systems<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Drilled Pier Foundation Systemsiv. Concrete Systemsc. Dimensions (48 points)d. Drawing Revisions (30 points)	D. Clash Detection (80 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Structural Componentsb. Intersectionsc. Disciplinesd. Construction

B. Standardization (115 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Columns b. Beams/Girders c. Slabs d. Walls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Element Shapes i. Element Sizes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Surface Finish ii. Reinforcement (quantity, size, spacing, splices) 	E. Tolerance Compatibility (75 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Structural Components b. Building Systems c. Exterior d. Interior
C. Concrete (70 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Specifications b. Materials c. Construction 	F. Deflection Compatibility (60 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Building Systems b. Exterior c. Interior

Decorative Concrete Council

Winter is Coming

Chris Sullivan, Decorative Concrete Specialist

Fall is upon us. This means shorter days and cooler nights. While daytime temperatures can still be comfortable, nighttime temperatures can start to get cold. It's time to start paying closer attention to the weather in general. The two key places to pay more attention when we get into the colder seasons are curing and sealing.

First, always follow ACI practices for placing and curing. When the temperatures start to get close to 40F, its time to start thinking 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. Inconsistent curing 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 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 summer, when morning 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 along way avoiding get caught in the cold.

I encourage you to utilize the technical hotlines provided by ASCC. These are a valuable benefit available to members only. You can reach the Decorative Concrete Hotline via phone at 303.570.7374 or by email at csullivan@asconline.org.

Concrete Polishing Council

Challenges to Overcome in the Polishing Industry - Face to Face

Shawn Halverson, Council Director

Each day we are asked to prepare a bid for a future job.

On my end we get invites thru blue book, old contacts, word of mouth, casual meetings, maybe a meeting from a local organization or mixer. Or, from bidding so many jobs you've created a database of old clients or folks you have bid to in the past. All this brings me to face to face.

Over the years we have bid to thousands of companies but rarely have we had the opportunity to meet face to face. We email back and forth, over and over. We have taken a proactive approach to this small dilemma.

We try to do two things: Monthly we send gift baskets to a group of 10-15 people or companies to introduce ourselves, and ask if they would like an in office meeting of a presentation on polishing. The other thing I do is just drop in; or sometimes I call and invite myself to sit with them for a few minutes. Maybe use the excuse of following up on a bid from recent times to see how we did, or try to negotiate my way into the job. Most times this is a great way to get in front of a potential customer, see each other for the first time, and really have a face to face meeting. It dispels thoughts of who they are, what they look like, and in most cases opens new doors to future work.

We have gotten so used to emails over the years we rarely get the opportunity. Sometimes old school is a better way to do business.

Don't rely on an email to show your personality or what your company can do, a face to face may help sell the next job coming up. Smile!

Safety & Risk Management Council

Stop Toolbox Talk Burnout: 5 Ways to Engage

Ruthann Ellis, Department of Field Training & Development, Ceco Concrete Construction

Conducting regular Toolbox Talks is an effective way to reinforce the focus on safety for workers. Yet if you are a crew leader, you have probably given the talk on PPE over 100 times, and wonder why you must continue to repeat yourself. Haven't we all complained that regurgitating the same information over and over is difficult to do and even more difficult to hear? This complacent attitude is TTBO; Toolbox Talk Burn Out. To avoid TTBO, we need to be creative in how we approach the task of communicating safety to our teams.

Professional athletes do not spend training camps playing the game. Instead, they do drills. Players spend hours throwing, catching, running plays, and then more throwing and running. The repetitiveness of the exercises sharpens the player's basic skills until they become a reflex during game time. If you think about a Toolbox Talk as a practice drill that builds the team's ability to respond automatically in a safe way, you will approach it differently. How you, their coach, gives the Toolbox Talk, has the single most impact on what motivates the employee to turn information into action. Check out these five coaching tips for more effective outcomes.

1. Good coaches prepare. Select a topic that is relevant to the current work or conditions. Practice reading the written document out loud to measure your pace and tone, and so you don't stumble over words and phrases. Think about potential objections, questions, and challenges that employees may pose and be ready with answers.

2. Always start with "Why?". Adults need to know why they need to know something. It is critical to their ability to internalize information, accept it, and then use it. When there is no "why," adults struggle to make sense of what they are seeing, hearing, or learning. And, the "why" is not as evident as you may think. If it were, workers would follow the rules, and Toolbox Talks would not be necessary. If you don't know or can't find the "why" that reaches them, ask them to tell you. "Why do you think we have Toolbox Talks?" "Why is this Toolbox Talk important?"

3. Be brief. The goal is to provide enough detail that workers know what you want them to do. Most people can only stand to listen for three minutes unless they are part of the conversation, which leads to the next point.

4. Involve the worker in the Toolbox Talk. When you provide listeners opportunities to engage actively, both their retention and attitude improve. Try this to increase participation.

- Have hand-raising polls ("Raise your hand if you have ever...")

- Share personal stories of your own experiences.
- Ask someone on the crew to deliver a portion of the talk.
- Conduct "follow-along" demos ("We are going to inspect our harnesses together.")
- Ask open-ended questions that require more than a yes or no response.

5. Follow-up! During the day, stop and ask workers what the Toolbox Talk was about. If they do not know or can't remember, ask them why and remind them. If they do remember, ask them why they think the information is essential. Regardless, stay positive and thank them.

Finally, be positive. Your attitude toward safety and the importance of the information is critical. Your crews will follow your lead. If you are safety complacent, demonstrate a lack of energy towards keeping everyone safe, and appear noncommittal, your team will respond in kind.

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Upcoming Webinars

November 17, 2020

Hardhats to Helmets

Scott Greenhaus, STRUCTURAL and Seth Randall, Clark Construction

December 9, 2020

Polished Concrete - How to Get What You Specify

Tom Collupy, Solomon Colors

January 13, 2021

Concrete Overlays of Existing Asphalt Surfaced Streets & Parking Lots

Jon Hansen, NRMCA

Webinars begin at 3 pm Central

[Register Here](#)

HOTLINE QUESTIONS

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POLISHED CONCRETE

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

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