

History of ASA

By Scott Rand

Much of the initial credit for the creation of the American Shotcrete Association (ASA) goes to Milt Collins. Collins was managing the International Concrete Repair Institute (ICRI) back in the late 1990s and had been talking about the concept of a trade association for the shotcrete industry for a couple of years. In 1997, he approached George Yoggy and Pete Tatnall with his thoughts, even going to the extent of arranging and financing the first meeting at his own expense. There was terrific interest and the Association was chartered in March 1998 with the mission to “promote shotcrete.” The first formal ASA general membership meeting was held later that year, just prior to the 1998 ACI Fall Convention in Los Angeles, CA. The Association’s Charter Memberships totaled 76 Corporate and 40 Individual members. Lars Balck was elected as first President and Milt Collins acted as first Executive Director (Collins & Associates).

One of the early objectives of the newly organized group was to produce a quarterly magazine. *Shotcrete* magazine was created and in its first year, it won an award for New Magazines and Journals in the APEX 1999 Eleventh Annual Awards for Publication Excellence. Today, *Shotcrete* magazine is distributed around the world and continues to speak directly to that original mission.



Beyond its numerous articles, one of the magazine’s regular columns is the ASA President’s Message. Lars Balck, the Association’s first President, took the time to thank a few industry pioneers in his initial memo, namely Ted Crom, Al Litvin, and George Houston Carroll Sr. Twenty years later, there are many more who could be added to that list, including the two gentlemen that Collins originally approached, Yoggy and Tatnall. Another industry notable, Dudley (Rusty) Morgan, quickly became involved and lent tremendous credibility to both the Association and the magazine with his worldwide consulting experience. One of Morgan’s earliest pieces discussed the difference between performance and prescriptive specifications. Morgan, in his last Message while President years later (Winter 2008), paid credit to further industry notables, adding to the list above Leon Glasgold, Steve Gebler, Merl Isaak, and Pietro Teichert.

The 1999 Las Vegas World of Concrete meeting was attended by 51 people and interest in the Association was

growing. This marked ASA’s first year as a pending co-sponsor candidate and our first booth at World of Concrete. By April of that year, the Association had already secured 142 members. The Board of Directors organized five committees to focus on the Association’s goals, namely Certification/Education, Marketing, Membership, Publications, and Safety. By August 1999, with membership at 152, planning had started for the first ASA Nozzlemen Certification/Training session in Streetsboro, OH. You may remember that until that point, there was a document that detailed certification procedures (ACI 506.3R, “Guide to Certification of Shotcrete Nozzlemen,”) but there was no single group to administer a formal program and give it credibility.

ASA teamed up with ICRI to deliver a joint Concrete Repair seminar at World of Concrete 2000. It was well received by those in attendance and Morgan spoke to the audience about many aspects of the shotcrete process. That seminar marked the first of many presented by the Association during subsequent World of Concrete events. That same year, the Association entered into a management contract with Association Concepts, a for-profit subsidiary of ACI (now known as Creative Association Management) and Rich Heitzmann was named the Executive Director. During that same year, I remember working on the task group that developed the original American Shotcrete Association brochure, first in Quebec City with Marc Jolin, Denis Beaupre, Jean-Francois Dufour, Joe Hutter, and Pete Tatnall, but the finishing touches were truly applied at a follow-up meeting at the ACI offices in Farmington Hills, MI. There, with the help of Marilyn Netter, the day was spent with both Yoggy and Tatnall. Pete told numerous, colorful stories and kept the mood fun while George let us scan through his tremendous historic photo archives. The fact that I can still picture that moment is a testament to both of those fine gentlemen. The year 2000 also brought the development of our website, www.shotcrete.org; the formation of the Underground Committee; and the presidency of Tatnall.

World of Concrete 2001 generated more significant advancements. ASA was added officially as a WOC co-sponsor and hosted its first Nozzleman Certification/Mega Demo. Although it takes an army to pull off such a feat, much of the organizational appreciation went to both Yoggy and Chris Zynda. Steve Gentry took over as President and hoped for a greater alliance with the National Spa and Pool Institute. The result was the development of the Pool & Spa Committee.

Shotcrete certification had always been at the heart of the Association. As early as 1994, Heitzmann (then



World of Concrete 2001 ASA Nozzleman Certification/Mega Demo



World of Concrete 2005 ASA Mega Demo

heading ACI Certification) helped Lars Balck get ACI Board approval to develop a formal certification program to replace the qualification efforts under the old ACI 506.3R. Activity then seemed dormant until 1997, when John Nehasil became ACI Certification Director and asked CPC member Merlyn Isaak to find out what happened to that initial commission. This resulted in a whirlwind of effort to put a program together, culminating in a pilot ASA certification session in Streetsboro, OH, in September 1999. Another public session took place in Orlando, FL, in April 2000 before the program was turned over to ACI Committee C660, Shotcrete Nozzleman Certification, and the Association became the National Sponsoring Group for the program. ASA then hosted a large public certification session and Mega Demo at World of Concrete 2001, with a total of 12 ACI Shotcrete Nozzleman Certification sessions hosted that year. The certification program started to gain serious momentum!

Ray Schallom III became the fourth President in 2002 and with the ASA Certification program now fully endorsed, the focus became centered on the new 90-minute promotional CD. The hope was that specific disciplines such as Concrete Repair, Civil Tunneling, Mining, Seismic Retrofit, New Construction, Pool & Spa, and Specialty Applications

would follow. The Association felt that \$50,000 would need to be raised to cover the cost of the professional services. The industry came together at the Burlington, ON, Canada offices of King Packaged Materials Company to undertake the development of this overwhelming task.

In 2003, Ed Brennan focused on developing a formal strategic plan for the Association's future. Meetings were held both at the ACI offices in Farmington Hills, MI, and at the ACI Fall Convention in Boston, MA. The result was a new vision, "that the shotcrete process be understood and used in every beneficial application," and a new mission "to encourage and promote the safe and beneficial use of the shotcrete process." Janice Fisher took over as President in 2004 and Thomas Adams became the new Executive Director.

In front of an estimated crowd of 2500, ASA hosted its second Mega Demo in 2005 at World of Concrete in Las Vegas, NV. Incoming President Larry Totten spoke about the fact that skepticism still surrounded the shotcrete industry despite the recent success and how shotcrete is tested to a level far greater than cast-in-place concrete. Attempting to increase the level of reliability for sodium bentonite waterproofing installations, a meeting was held in July 2005 in San Leandro, CA. The result was to shoot mockups to verify the compatibility of using shotcrete in conjunction with

these systems. Safety Committee Chair Zynda was credited for introducing a Pocket Safety Manual, available in both English and Spanish.

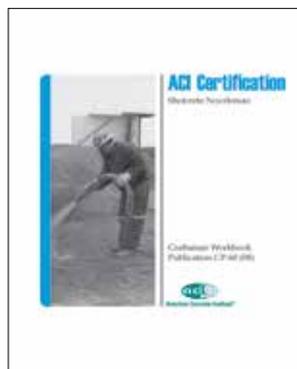


During an impromptu meeting in the stands following the 2005 Mega-Demo, Hutter and Brennan first initiated the idea of an ASA's Annual Outstanding Shotcrete Project Awards Banquet. The idea was developed to bring members of the industry together for one night where it could recognize the most outstanding shotcrete projects from the previous year. The Association's inaugural banquet was held at World of Concrete 2006 and the five categories honored were Architectural, Infrastructure, Pool & Recreation, Repair & Rehabilitation, and Underground. The event was attended by 110 people and was an overwhelming success.



Morgan began his two-year term as President in 2006 and in one of his messages spoke to the popular belief that Carl Akeley, inventor of the dry-mix gun, had created it for shooting large frames that were covered with animal skins for museum exhibits. While that practice was true, the real development was for repairing the Field Columbian Museum façade in Chicago, IL. This significant shotcrete industry development was described in great detail in an article written by Teichert in *Shotcrete* magazine's Summer 2002 issue.

The certification program continued to excel and successful nozzlemen now totaled 417 wet-mix and 127 dry-mix, completed by the 10 ACI-approved examiners. ACI's CCS-4, "Shotcrete for the Craftsman," was originally developed, primarily written by Balck, along with Steven Gebler, Merlyn Isaak, Dudley Morgan, and Philip Seabrook. CCS-4 saw a complete revision under the direction of Jean-Francois Dufour and Marc Jolin in 2008. That revision subsequently served as the core material for the ACI Certification Shotcrete Craftsman Workbook, CP-60, that with minor edits still serves as the study material for the nozzleman certification program today. With 32 *Shotcrete* magazine issues and 180 articles to date, the digital archives were becoming a wonderful industry resource and for ease of future access, were added to the website.



A new International category was added to the Annual Project Awards, and joining the President's Award was the newly created Carl Akeley Award in recognition of the 100-year anniversary of his development of the shotcrete gun (1907). In one of his 2008 addresses, new President Zynda spoke of the evolution that he had witnessed over his long career and some of his predictions for the future. He stated that the creativity and versatility of shotcrete contractors should benefit them during these challenging economic times. Chris Darnell took over the responsibility as Executive Director and became a valued part of the executive team.

In 2010, Patrick Bridger, having already spent eight years on the Executive Committee, became the Association's 10th President. Bridger worked together with ICRI and ACPA to further the membership reach. One of Bridger's main objectives was to ask the Education Committee to first analyze and then modify the current procedure and policy for examiners, hosts, and nozzlemen, especially the work experience verification. The committee put forward a recommendation for restructuring, which was fully supported by the Board. Their three main goals were to reduce the administrative work for examiners, allowing them to be objective in their evaluations; standardizing the system as far as costs and timelines to level the playing field; and to create a system of continual evaluation of the ASA Examiners, ultimately making the program more transparent, objective, and consistent. It was a monumental task for the committee who was also working on updating the ASA Educator training module, based on CP-60.

As part of the continuous outreach objective, the Association exhibited for the second time at the International Bridge Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. ASA became one of 27 unified concrete associations in the Concrete Joint Sustainability Initiative to promote the sustainability benefits of concrete. A committee was set up to summarize those benefits specific to shotcrete, chaired by Charles Hanskat. Development also started on the Shotcrete Inspector Education program. In an excellent piece written by Bridger on pre-dampening, he stated that the pros had been well documented since 1922, but still not adopted across the board. They may become more important than ever understanding the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration's new respirable crystalline silica standards.

In 2011, in an effort to appeal to more specifiers, ASA presented at the Midwest Bridge Working Group in Schaumburg, IL. The Association also created and began offering free membership to Employees of Public Authorities/Agencies.

Hutter took over as President at World of Concrete 2012 and while remarking about that year's Awards Banquet, stated that it was perhaps the best to date. The Paris Hotel & Casino provided the finest venues so far, attracting the event's largest attendance, and a record number of projects were submitted, which also helped to secure the greatest number of sponsors to date. The website underwent quite a modification and it was unveiled late in 2012.

Michael Cotter, incoming 2013 President, set out to right the wrong with the Nozzleman Certification program. The

unintended circumstances that stemmed from nozzlemen certification was the emphasis placed on the nozzleman, while very little was placed on the qualification of the shotcrete contractor. The Contractor Qualification Committee was developed with the goal of developing a comprehensive program. Mark Campo took over the responsibility as the new Executive Director of ASA.

In 2014, incoming President Hanskat made one of his top priorities to develop a new strategic plan that would guide the Association through the next 5 to 10 years. Hanskat enlisted the help of Jon Hockman, a Washington, DC-based facilitator, and a task group was assembled in Farmington Hills, MI. The group's enthusiastic ideas were written as specific objectives separated into four strategic priorities (Professional Development, Outreach, Credibility, and Organizational Strength). The next step was to sit down with each of the committee Chairs to discuss the division of objectives. In December 2014, the Board unanimously approved the full-time position of Executive Director, to be assumed the first of the year by Hanskat.

Marcus von der Hofen took over the reins as President in 2015 and to further the "Shotcrete is Concrete" education, reestablished the Underground Committee and created a new Technical Committee. Coming out of The ACI Concrete Convention and Exposition – Spring 2015 in Kansas City, MO, it was apparent that the new strategic plan required more focus. The Concrete Convention and Exposition – Fall 2015 in Denver, CO, let the newly formed Strategic Plan task group start the meeting by reviewing all Association committee goals and objectives, achieving consensus not only on what committee should be responsible for each objective but also in which specific priority and by what end date they should be completed. The result was a greater focus and commitment to our next steps. In preparation for World of Concrete 2016, the Marketing Committee unveiled a new logo and updated the entire Association branding at the end of the year.

Bill Drakeley took over as President next and continued to emphasize the importance and accountability of the Strategic Plan scorecard. The Association was realizing tremendous efforts from many groups and the scorecard gave the ability to view all accomplishments or required next steps in one report. Drakeley reminded all members that the only logo you should wear in all meetings is the new ASA one. He also summarized the need for elevated training industry wide, the possible consequences without it, and introduced the NIT program. The Association meetings moved to a dual-track format at The ACI Concrete Convention and Exposition – Spring 2016 in Milwaukee, WI, meetings and worked very well, shortening the common Saturday committee meetings day.

ASA Acknowledges the Contributions and Dedication of our Past Presidents and Executive Directors in shaping the first 20 years of the American Shotcrete Association.

ASA Presidents

1998	Lars Balck
2000	Peter Tatnall
2001	Steve Gentry
2002	Ray Schallom III
2003	Ed Brennan
2004	Janice Fisher
2005	Larry Totten
2006	Rusty Morgan
2007	Rusty Morgan
2008	Chris Zynda
2009	Chris Zynda
2010	Patrick Bridger
2011	Patrick Bridger
2012	Joe Hutter
2013	Michael Cotter
2014	Charles Hanskat
2015	Marcus von der Hofen
2016	Bill Drakeley
2017	Scott Rand

Executive Directors

1998	Milt Collins
1999	Richard Storey
2000	Richard Heitzmann
2004	Thomas Adams
2008	Chris Darnell
2013	Mark Campo
2015	Charles Hanskat



At World of Concrete 2017, Scott Rand took over as President. Rand, managing the Strategic Plan task group, commented that with over 50% of the objectives complete, it was time to write the next chapter of the existing plan. A task group was assembled for a meeting held at the ACI offices prior to The ACI Concrete Convention and Exposition – Spring 2017 in Detroit, MI. One of the ideas that came out of the meeting was to host the Association’s 20th Anniversary in Napa, CA, in March 2018. A group of Board members was put together to work on the ASA Shotcrete Convention. ASA will not only host its regular committee meetings and Outstanding Shotcrete Project Awards Banquet at the event but also a technical shotcrete session.

Hanskat is presenting our newly completed Inspector Training Seminar to various Departments of Transportation with the anticipation of a full release early in 2018. The Association will conduct Nozzlemen Certification Education sessions in both English and, for the first time, Spanish at the upcoming 2018 World of Concrete. ASA will also present a seminar on “Advanced Shotcrete: Innovative Techniques for Architectural & Structural Projects” at the Convention.

Today, ASA continues to provide excellent resources to the shotcrete industry. Nozzlemen Certification is quickly approaching the 2000 mark, an incredible achievement. Our Committees are more active and productive within ASA as well as support for ACI 506 activity, and outreach to other standards developing organizations that impact concrete construction. Our reach is more frequently extended beyond the North American borders via certification sessions,

association alliances, and more. If shotcrete is your industry, ASA is your resource to grow and develop!

Many people beyond those who have been mentioned in this quick article have had a hand in the success of this Association. While it was not my intention to overlook anyone in the aforementioned summary, there was also an unfortunate realization that more than were mentioned deserve our sincere appreciation. The growth of the ASA programs has required a tremendous amount of support from a long list of outstanding Executive Assistants (Marilyn Netter, Jessie Bournay, and Melissa McClain). This is especially true for current ASA Program Coordinator Alice McComas, whose incredible contribution is essential and much appreciated. To the numerous committee members, especially the Chairs, the various Board members and to the staff behind the scenes working on the magazine, the website, from graphics to logistics...thank you for your contribution over the years.



Scott Rand is Vice President, Sales, for King Packaged Materials Company, where he is responsible for the Construction Products Group. Rand has over 30 years of experience in the concrete industry and has spent the past 20 years with King. He has had a major contribution in the growth of the King Shotcrete Solutions brand and its leading position in the North American shotcrete industry. Rand has been involved in high-profile projects in numerous cities from New York to Chicago. He is the 2017 President of ASA and a member of ICRI, UCA of SME, CIM, and ACI.