

# Inflection Points

By Jason Myers



A change in our Board leadership is a great opportunity to look at the past, present, and future of the American Shotcrete Association (ASA). As I approach my 9<sup>th</sup> year on the Board and Executive Board, I now have the honor and privilege of serving as President over the next year. After nearly 30 years as an association, reviewing what the

ASA has accomplished in the shotcrete industry is essential — reflecting on those I now call friends over my time with the ASA, is an honor.

## HINDSIGHT IS 20/20

Looking back on the first and second generations of ASA members, it's amazing to recall the position papers that have been written, the accumulated knowledge within both the shotcrete and general construction industries, the influence on ACI documents, the increase in the quality of shotcrete, and the recognition of shotcrete as an acceptable and often preferable means of concrete placement.

I look at those in the process of finishing out their careers, and the service that they've provided to the ASA — continuing what the founders started. This includes the Shotcrete Contractor Qualification program, Shotcrete Inspector education and certification, as well as continued efforts in bringing design guidance and quality control within the pool industry. Our skatepark members have also stepped up to recognize the same needs within the skatepark industry. That second generation has done a wonderful job of holding up the ASA banner and leading us forward, and we owe our present to the hard work of the past.

## NOW AND AGAIN

An inflection point is a point along a curved line that changes its direction from its current path. I believe that we are at one of those inflection points in the ASA.

Ever since COVID, the nature and commitment to service have changed. I've seen it in many different organizations, including the ASA. The strength of our association today is due to the sacrifice, leadership, and efforts of the first and second generations of the ASA membership, but our future

is in the hands of those reading this article. Is the ASA going to grow to greater heights, leading to greater acceptance and higher quality in the shotcrete industry?

## LOOK DOWN THE ROAD

Our future is where that inflection point directs us next. Will you help contribute to a continued upward trajectory? Membership has never been higher, but true involvement has been mixed. The strength of our past was ASA's members pulling together, working toward common goals, and figuring out a path for the future. It wasn't about the individual or individual companies, but about promoting the shotcrete industry as a whole. Our present political and societal situations are perfect examples of this — they're no longer about the common good, but about selfish needs and immediate satisfaction.

Where is our ASA going in the future? That depends on you: Where are you serving? Are you living off the effort of our shotcrete forefathers, or are you helping to create and form that future? Are you helping to draft and write the shotcrete documents and position papers of the present and future, or are you living off the documents of the past?

Are you going to help shotcrete become a leader in the issues of the future, such as PLC (Type IL) cement, how AI can be used in estimates, the use of robotics and automation, or other things that we haven't even begun to think of? Or are you going to let the decisions and understanding of these issues be up to the opinions and control of others?

## LET'S DO THIS TOGETHER

We are all very thankful for the hard work and leadership of our shotcrete predecessors. It's amazing what those dedicated men and women have accomplished in a few short years — they've provided a great framework of understanding, promotion, and acceptance of the shotcrete industry. We have certainly advanced substantially over the last nearly 30 years as an association. The question is this: What are you going to do with the tremendous foundation that has been laid for us?

Let's build on it and sustain their legacy for another 30 years — and beyond.