

What is ASA?

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In my travels and presentations as Executive Director over the years, I often get the question — What is ASA? If it's a brief encounter, my elevator pitch is an expansion of our mission statement: "ASA is the American Shotcrete Association, a nonprofit trade association dedicated to expanding and advancing global use of the shotcrete process for concrete

placement. Our members are predominantly shotcrete contractors with an overwhelming desire to further the quality and acceptance of shotcrete placement, creating efficient, strong, durable concrete structures." Then I might need to explain what shotcrete is: "Concrete accelerated to a high velocity, 60 to 80 mph (100 to 130 kph) and then impacting and compacting in place, creating a strong, durable concrete system with minimal, if any, formwork."

But reflecting on what ASA is... it's a lot more than that. It's the people — members working in and with shotcrete; the programs we support — certification, qualification, and more; the interaction with code and standards-developing organizations to properly address shotcrete placement; and the ongoing education of engineers, contractors, owners, students, and field staff supporting quality shotcrete placement.

WE ARE OUR PEOPLE

Any successful association is the sum of the individuals who take its mission to heart. The members who have the passion and experience to recognize what's needed to move the association forward, and in turn advance the industry. ASA enjoyed the dedication and foresight of a core group of members when we started 28 years ago, and we continue to build on that today.

Though staff helps to organize and address the day-to-day issues of running the association and our programs, the volunteer members who are active in our Executive Committee, Board, and other committees are where true selflessness is on display. Every member has their unique perspective on what shotcrete is, and in truth, what the ASA is. The viewpoint of the shotcrete contractor and material or equipment supplier may vary, but all can see that working together advances our association to make it greater than the sum of its parts. Engineers and owners see how our diverse membership works together to make quality shotcrete placement the efficient, strong, and durable

solution for concrete construction.

It's always eye-opening to see in-depth and open networking between our members at conventions. Likewise, collaboration within committee work demonstrates our commitment to sharing for the betterment of shotcrete.

WE ARE PROGRAMS WHICH SUPPORT SHOTCRETE PLACEMENT

The ASA has fully supported shotcreter and shotcrete inspector education and their respective ACI certification programs. ASA also developed and maintains the Contractor Qualification program that acknowledges successful shotcrete contractors who have demonstrated their commitment to building the company infrastructure to undertake a wide variety of shotcrete placement projects. We believe that knowledgeable, experienced shotcrete office and field staff exemplify the dedication to quality we look for in shotcrete placement day in and day out. ASA is the primary association conducting American Concrete Institute (ACI) shotcrete-related certifications worldwide.

We also promote quality shotcrete through seminars for engineers, architects, owners, and contractors. We are the shotcrete experts, but we share our experience and knowledge to have designers and owners recognize the benefits of shotcrete placement. Our seminars range from 1-hour talks given to ACI, International Concrete Repair Institute (ICRI) or Structural Engineers Association (SEA) chapters, online webinars spanning the globe, and full-day in-depth shotcrete short courses.

Our annual convention gives our members, and those interested in shotcrete, a venue to network and share. The convention brings together speakers with impactful presentations on current shotcrete practices and technology. It allows our committee members to collaborate face-to-face once a year on the initiatives which move ASA forward. The highlight of each convention has been our annual awards banquet where we recognize and celebrate that year's outstanding shotcrete projects from around the world.

We are also *Shotcrete* magazine, the only quarterly publication worldwide that focuses exclusively on shotcrete. The magazine brings together articles that cover the wide range of shotcrete projects, technical advances in materials and equipment, and safety topics for the crews who are shotcreting every day. The printed magazine is mailed to all our active members, and a PDF version is freely available on our website. The coolest aspect of the magazine is that

the large majority of our articles are volunteered from our members, not editorial or staff writing departments.

WE ARE THE RESOURCE FOR SHOTCRETE KNOWLEDGE

Standards-developing organizations (SDO), like ACI, ICRI, ASTM and IBC have very knowledgeable engineers, owners and contractors who have developed codes and standards governing the concrete industry for decades. But not all these SDOs have members with a wealth of shotcrete experience. ASA has many members who sit on ACI, ICRI, and ASTM committees to provide the shotcrete knowledge required to develop documents that properly cover quality shotcrete. This interaction with the other committee members in the SDOs helps improve the credibility and ultimately the acceptance of shotcrete placement. Through our decades of involvement in these SDOs, we are seeing engineers recognize that shotcrete knowledge flows from ASA and its members. We are their resource.

WHAT IS ASA TOMORROW?

What is ASA? Ultimately, it's our people who have dedicated their time and expertise to create and support programs that benefit the industry. We've enjoyed the active involvement of so many dedicated and passionate individuals who truly care about quality shotcrete placement. It's these people who created the foundation for ASA as an association to advance shotcrete, and helped make us what we are today.

Your interest, active involvement, and passion for quality shotcrete placement are a key part of ASA continuing and advancing tomorrow. Join us to make ASA an even stronger force in making shotcrete better!



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becoming a member of the
American Shotcrete Association!**