

# SCENES FROM CINCINNATI— THE ICRI 2011 FALL CONVENTION

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**E**ach year, the fall convention gives our members the opportunity to learn something new from our diverse technical presentations, contribute to important and ongoing committee work, and celebrate the winners of our coveted Annual Project Awards. The ICRI 2011 Fall Convention held October 12-14, 2011, at the Westin Cincinnati in Cincinnati, OH, once again demonstrated that participation in ICRI provides the rewards its members are seeking.

The official start of any convention is the Welcome Reception. Attendees assembled on Wednesday evening, surrounded by a fine collection of local and national exhibitors, and had the chance to meet up with industry professionals from all over the world. Our local hosts, the Greater Cincinnati Chapter, did manage to slip in a golf outing earlier that afternoon at the Maketewah Country Club for those who needed a tee time before face time with friends and colleagues at the reception.

The theme of this convention, “Water & Wastewater Treatment Plant Repairs,” allowed for members of the Technical Activities Committee to recruit a unique collection of presentations. More than a dozen guest speakers gave attendees a unique glimpse into what is going on in our industry, including insight into cementitious repair materials for wastewater



*The Technical Sessions on Thursday and Friday drew big crowds and kept them engrossed with details on new technologies*



*The “Visit the Exhibits” Continental Breakfast served each morning is a great way to get the day started in the exhibit area*



*The Opening Luncheon and General Session on Thursday usually draws the largest crowd of the convention*

infrastructure, the problems and solutions presented by carbon fiber-reinforced polymers, and some concrete advice about new coating system options in water and wastewater treatment plants. Each presentation provoked discussion and provided attendees with some fascinating information.

Much of what ICRI does as an industry association comes from the work of the technical and administrative committees. We do so much work in these meetings. As an association dedicated to education, we rely on members working together to create, update, and validate our most important resource: ICRI's Technical Guidelines. With 16 current publications available and several more in the works, this work requires input from contractors, engineers, and manufacturers alike. Drop by the Technical Committees page of the ICRI Web site to see a full list of committees and a description of

what each group is working on right now. You don't have to wait for a convention to get involved.

The convention's General Session during lunch on Thursday included the official welcome by ICRI's President Don Ford, who greeted the crowd with a rundown of all the exciting things happening at ICRI. The keynote speech at the luncheon was given by Kelly Page, ICRI's Executive Director, who used the occasion to provide a review of the ICRI Web site. It is one of the association's most versatile tools; however, it seems that not all mem-



Attendees for the Project Awards Banquet are interested in hearing about the challenges and triumphs of each Award of Excellence



The 2011 Project of the Year was accepted by Alan Haughey, ConTech Construction LLC. He is shown here (far left) with his wife Joan and two ConTech employees, Jon Blanchard and Greg Bruce (far right)



Peter B. Larson of Raymond L. Goodson Jr., Inc., recipient of the Award of Excellence in the Low-Rise Category



An impressive collection of 2011 Project Award recipients proudly displaying their plaques



Bob Armbruster of The Armbruster Company accepting a Longevity Category Award of Excellence



bers are thoroughly aware of all the updates, features, and opportunities available to them through this key resource. In fact, you will most certainly find something on the Web site right now that you did not know was there, so take a moment and visit [www.icri.org](http://www.icri.org) to find out for yourself.

The annual Project Awards Banquet is the highlight of any fall convention, and our 19th event



*Naomi White, our new Membership Services Coordinator, sits with Sue Adams, our plucky Event Services meeting planner at the Project Awards Banquet*



*The Greater Cincinnati Chapter hosted a contingent of convention attendees on Friday night at 360, which provided an open bar and an extensive dinner buffet*



*Friday evening guests included (from left to right): Stig Strombeck, CSU Chico; Kelly Page; ICRI 2011 President Don Ford; ICRI Past President Monica Rourke; and Sofia Salazar, CSU Chico*

was an exceptional example of the importance of these awards. Our emcee for the evening, Mark Nelson, Chair of the Awards Committee, began by thanking the panel of judges for their efforts. Each year, the number of entries grows and this year's Cincinnati-based panel did a great job reviewing all the submissions.

The Project Awards Banquet provides the opportunity for everyone to hear about the challenging work and exceptional achievements necessary to be an award winner. Not only did we honor our 2011 Project of the Year but we also presented eight Awards of Excellence and 13 Awards of Merit. A special thanks and congratulations to those ICRI project award recipients for their hard work, not only on the projects themselves but also on the high quality of all the entries received.

The whole event wrapped up with a unique dinner high atop the local Radisson hotel at its award-winning restaurant, 360. It is so named because the restaurant is one of the few remaining that revolves around the top of the tower. The views were fantastic, the food was first-rate, and the Greater Cincinnati Chapter members were excellent hosts for the large group.

Cincinnati itself added an easygoing character and the host Chapter added immeasurably to another successful ICRI convention. ICRI wishes to thank all the attendees, exhibitors, sponsors, presenters, and award recipients for joining us. We hope to see everyone at the ICRI 2012 Spring Convention in Quebec City, QC, Canada, for an expanded 3-day convention, April 18-20, 2012. We are getting things done at ICRI and would like to extend an invitation for you to get involved! Make the most of your membership and come to a convention.



*The 360 restaurant was across the Ohio River and had a fantastic view of downtown Cincinnati*