

# ICRI 2013 FALL CONVENTION

LAST EVENT OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR BROKE ALL ATTENDANCE RECORDS!

BY KELLY M. PAGE



*The action on the whirlyball court was fast-paced and fun...*



*...but as you can tell, distractions from above were not out of the ordinary...*

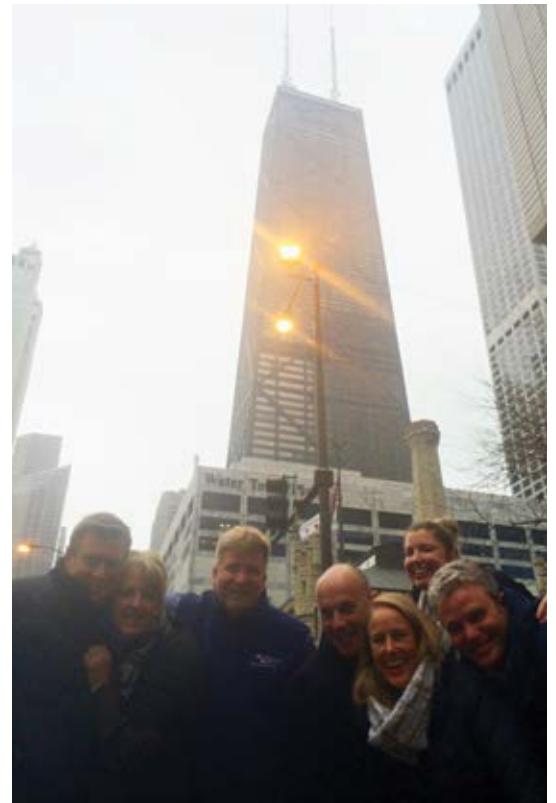


*...and getting a whiffle ball into that little, teeny-tiny hole in the backboard was the ultimate goal. Did we mention the hole was tiny?*

A beautiful venue, a couple of great chapter events, terrific technical presentations, a very moving general session speaker, and RECORD-BREAKING ATTENDANCE—these were just some of the highlights of ICRI's 2013 Fall Convention, held November 13-15 at the Fairmont Chicago, Millennium Park Hotel in Chicago, IL. Final attendance for the convention was 324, smashing our previous record of 289!

The convention kicked off on Wednesday, November 13, with a chapter event. The ICRI Chicago Chapter introduced ICRI attendees to the fun and exciting amusement of whirlyball, a totally unique combination of basketball, lacrosse, and bumper cars. Everyone who attended had a great time, although competitive bumper cars made for a few sore bodies at the reception that evening!

In addition to providing a venue for the whirlyball players to ease their bumps and bruises, the Wednesday evening Welcome Reception provided



*Enjoying the crisp fall weather outside a Chicago icon are (left to right) Keith Harrison, Tanya Wattenburg Komars, Scott Harrison, Jeff Barnes, Beth Karins, Amy Woods, and David Karins*



convention attendees a chance to greet old friends and to visit the record-breaking number of exhibitors. A recent survey of convention-goers revealed that networking was their number-one reason for attending, and the reception was a great place to do so.

Thursday morning at the convention was busy as usual, beginning with the “Visit the Exhibits” Continental Breakfast, held in ICRI’s exhibit area. Attendees had another chance to learn about many new products and services offered by our exhibitors while enjoying a delicious breakfast. ICRI’s committee meetings, which seem to be busier every convention with the addition of new committees and subcommittees, also kicked off Thursday morning.



*Always well-represented, the Baltimore-Washington gang even hangs out together at the reception*



*Each convention kicks off with the Welcome Reception, where members get to meet, get reintroduced, and socialize before the learning begins*



*Exhibitors revel in the attention at the Welcome Reception, including (from left to right) first-timers Josh Kaiser and David Thrasher from Foundation Supportworks with Scott Anderson and Jack Witworth from Deneef Construction Chemicals*



*ICRI’s new Technical Director, Ken Lozen (center), takes a moment during the reception to catch up with ICRI friends he’s known for some time*



*Networking is the name of the game at the reception, where exhibitors meet and greet as many attendees as they can*

The theme for the Fall Convention was “Looking Back—ICRI Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary.” The Technical Sessions offered attendees a chance to see how far we have come in the concrete repair industry with educational sessions from some of ICRI’s beloved experts and intrepid legends. In addition to learning about how far we have come in 25 short years, speakers offered a look into the future of where we are headed for the next 25. The Technical Sessions drew high praise for the quality and content of the presentations.

A highlight of the 25th anniversary celebration was a guest speaker at the Opening Luncheon and General Session, Eric Greitens. Greitens served as a United States Navy SEAL Officer and was deployed four times during the Global War on Ter-

rorism. He served as the Commander of a Mark V Special Operations Craft Detachment, Commander of a Joint Special Operations Task Unit, and as Commander of an Al Qaeda Targeting Cell. In 2005, he was appointed by the President to serve as a White House Fellow. His military awards include the Combat Action Ribbon, the Purple Heart, and the Bronze Star. After returning from Iraq in 2007, Greitens donated his combat pay to found The Mission Continues, a national nonprofit organization that challenges veterans to serve and inspire in communities across America. As CEO, Greitens has been recognized as one of the most effective leaders in America by several institutions and recently, *TIME* magazine named him to the 2013 list of the 100 most influential people in the world. He gave a very inspiring speech to our members about leadership and overcoming challenges.

The annual Project Awards Banquet is a highlight of any fall convention, and this one was no exception. The Awards Committee livened things up by welcoming attendees with paparazzi taking photos on the red carpet! The entries this year were all terrific, and the Florida-based judging panel did a great job reviewing the submissions. We offer a special thanks and congratulations to those ICRI Project Award recipients for all of their hard work.



*The Technical Sessions, 15 in total, always bring attendees a good return on investment*



*ICRI brought in Eric Greitens as a guest speaker for the Opening Luncheon and General Session. Eric’s heartwarming presentation was powerful and inspirational*



*A Rhodes Scholar, Navy Seal, and White House Fellow, Eric Greitens has founded “The Mission Continues” to challenge veterans to continue to serve and inspire*



The 2013 Fall Convention included ICRI's 21st Annual Project Awards Banquet. Walsh Construction Company, located in Chicago, brought quite a crowd to the Project Awards Banquet to celebrate their Project of the Year honors for 2013



Awards of Merit and Excellence presented by Sika Corporation representatives (from left to right): Michel Donadio, Amer Syed, and Hugo Orozco Recillas



Representing multiple-award winner STRUCTURAL are Joe Augustine, Brad Holland, and Frank Martinelli



Keith Kesner, representing Whitlock Dalrymple Poston & Associates, PC, also took home an Award of Excellence



Winners in the Water Structures Category are Paul Pinet (left) from Premier Corrosion Protection Services, Inc., and Carlos Hernandez (right) from MAPEI Corporation



Award of Merit winners from JQ, Mark LeMay (left) and Stephen Lucy (right)



Friday evening's event at Buddy Guy's Legends included food, friends, and some pool



The Chicago Chapter planned and hosted this music-filled event, where some folks listened to the blues all night long



Convention attendees welcomed a chance to unwind and let loose at the venerable South Loop music venue

The convention ended on a high note with a social event sponsored by the Chicago Chapter, an evening at Buddy Guy's Legends. Chicago is famous for the blues and there is no better place in Chicago for blues than Buddy Guy's Legends in the heart of the South Loop. Old friends and new had a fantastic dinner, great drinks, and an opportunity to listen to some of the music for which Chicago is known.

This convention was an unbelievable wrap-up to ICRI's 25th anniversary activities. All of the great events would not have been possible without the tremendous support of all the 25th anniversary sponsors.

As you can see, ICRI conventions are full of interesting activities and many lively (and fun!) networking opportunities. We hope you join us at the 2014 Spring Convention, to be held in Reno, NV, March 19-21, 2014. The theme of the convention is "Infrastructure Repair." We hope to see you all there!



More revelers included (from left to right) Bill Mahler, Ilene Paul, and Jay Paul



As long as these folks are having fun, the convention was a success! From left to right are: Tanya Wattenburg Komars, ICRI's President for the 2013 25th Anniversary year Bud Earley, Jacques Bertrand, Scott Burghardt, and Amy Woods