

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GRATITUDE FOR THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF ICRI



BUD EARLEY

In my first President's Message, I started talking about the beginning of our year-long 25th Anniversary celebration. The 25th year (2013) of ICRI's existence was a very special year—one of historical and personal importance. My first objective was to encourage the people within our organization, as well as outside the organization, to try to get more involved with ICRI by becoming more diligent in local chapter activities and trying to attend the spring and fall convention in 2013. One goal was to break the 300 mark for attendance, as we never had more than 300 people at a single convention. We surpassed that mark at our 2013 Fall Convention, November 13-15, in Chicago, IL, with 324 attendees! Going forward, it is my hope that 300 will become the norm rather than the exception.

Our 25th year was a noteworthy 12-month period with some new milestones to add to our record books. With new achievements at the chapter level and our continued growth as an organization, it truly was a year of historical importance for ICRI. It was also a year of personal importance because not only did I get to be President, but I also got to preside over ICRI during its 25th Anniversary year. Earlier in my career, I learned that good leaders surround themselves with good people. It may not have been my doing, but I was surrounded by several hardworking individuals that made up our Executive Committee for 2013: Past President Garth Fallis; President-Elect Michael Tabassi; Vice-President Katherine Blatz; Treasurer Brian Daley; and Secretary Keith Harrison. With assistance from our Executive Director, Kelly Page, we had a strong year as an organization and a great time recalling our beginnings, celebrating our successes, and acknowledging our founders. Additionally, we had the pleasure of welcoming one of our founding members, Ken Lozen, into the organization in a new role as our Technical Director. Add this to all of the contributions made by our general membership, and it's easy to say "It's all about the people."

My second President's Message for the *CRB* touched on breaking attendance records over the past 12 years. Not only did we break the 300 mark in attendance for a single convention but ICRI has also set a new record for convention attendance in a year with 614 attendees in 2013. Our attendance has continued to grow due in no small part to the hard work and dedication of the many different types of companies involved in concrete repair, such as structural engineers, restoration contractors, manufacturers, and other entities from within our industry. Please don't ever take those people for granted who attend most every convention, those who are always chairing one or more committees, or those volunteering repeatedly to present at our technical sessions during a convention. We continuously get not only financial support but also active member participation from our Supporting Member companies and the many other companies who have as many as 20 or more

people as members of ICRI. As I mentioned in the May/June issue of the *CRB*, if your employer sends you to the local chapter meetings and/or the national conventions, don't forget to say "thank you" to your company!

I received a few comments from people about my July/August President's Message. You may not remember what I wrote about on being a self-teacher and the process ICRI uses to disseminate information on concrete repair, but perhaps you remember me asking you if you were an autodidact? The focus of my message was on education. I was very pleased to learn when I attended our "Roundtable" meetings in 2013 just how many chapters were active all year in educating their members through symposiums, demo days, and their general chapter technical meetings. I had the privilege of traveling to several chapters across the country and presenting the "Overview of ICRI Technical Guidelines." ICRI has taken knowledge, skills, and habits of a group of people and transferred them from one generation to the next through teaching, training, and research. We are continually looking for ways to deliver relative and useful concrete repair information to our members and non-members alike, while ensuring that they have the best (educational concrete repair) products and services possible. So, if you're an autodidact, where do you go to be educated on concrete repair materials and methods? ICRI, of course!

The 2013 Fall Convention was the final major public event of my presidency where I had the opportunity to meet with members from across the country. I think most of us find it easiest to meet new people when the ice is already broken by the circumstances. In the September/October issue of the *CRB*, my President's Message was mostly about meeting people for the first time at our conventions. I want to thank all of the people who came up to me in Chicago and introduced themselves. The convention continues to be an excellent venue for networking and making new acquaintances in the concrete repair industry.

My November/December President's Message was all about our chapters interacting with the national organization. How have we managed to keep those members (who are not able to attend a national convention) feeling like they know what goes on at the national level? I know that over the past couple of years, many of you have participated in the Chapter Roundtable meetings. This program has proven to be a huge success, as members from chapters within a region gather to share not only the successes but also some of the struggles of their chapter. I can honestly say I have not heard anything negative come out of one of these meetings.

As we close out the first 25 years and begin our journey into the next 25 years, I can assure you that the organization is embarking on an exciting path. By growing our student membership with bright new minds, we will be researching and examining our strategic plan and goals for our future. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for allowing me to be your 25th President of ICRI in 2013.

"We must constantly endeavor if we are to succeed."