

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CLOSING THE YEAR WITH A BANG!



MICHAEL TABASSI

By the time you read this, 2014 will have come to an end; it was an exciting year for ICRI and its members. We have had two successful conventions, two Chapter Roundtables, and numerous certification sessions. Financially, we are sound with almost 6 months in reserve, and membership-wise, we are steady yet growing incrementally. In a survey which we recently sent to members of ICRI as well as those in the concrete repair field outside of the organization, with over 500 responses, the consensus was that our organization is highly thought of, especially our educational and networking components.

Following this feedback, the ICRI Board of Directors created a Strategic Vision and Plan Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate the present status of ICRI, as well as the response we received from our survey, and make suggestions and recommendations as how to effectively move forward. The result from this effort was to emphasize our strengths by making ICRI increase its educational capabilities such as certification, creating CEU- and PDH-ready programs, and providing examples or commentaries to the existing codes and guidelines.

This does not mean that ICRI will abandon the present structure of creating useful and needed guidelines for our industry, nor does it imply that we will abandon the educational discussions and exchanges between our members and committees. On the contrary: we are keeping and enhancing these components by adding another dimension—making it simple for the public to understand and implement our guidelines in addition to all other codes and guidelines existing in our industry. ICRI is already hard at work in implementing this dimension—through ICRI Committee 150, ICRI Notes on ACI 562 Code Requirements, which is helping to create a Guide for the use of ACI 562, and certification programs that we have implemented and new ones we are creating.

Such efforts will generate more opportunities for ICRI in terms of venturing with other organizations and filling the void that exists in our industry, which is how to perform provided directions and recommendations of codes and guidelines. Our organization is always geared toward fulfilling the needs of our membership; ICRI officials are committed to the practice of taking into account the needs and goals of its membership, and by extension the industry, and setting the necessary direction and structure to realize them.

One change that has been made in regard to structure relates to technical committees, where their work will now focus more on short-term objectives that encompass completing tasks at hand within a couple of years versus 6 to 7 years. We have noticed that both interest and effort decelerates and diminishes as the duration of the task becomes prolonged to more than a couple of years.

Another noteworthy recommendation made by the Strategic Vision and Plan Ad Hoc Committee, and one which has been a goal of mine throughout the year, is to involve the younger generation and college students in our organization. The Board of Directors created an Implementation Ad Hoc Committee to review and apply the recommendation of the Strategic Vision and Plan Ad Hoc Committee, and Implementation Ad Hoc Committee has involved three university students in order to close the youth gap in our industry. With the inclusion of and input from these young professionals, we hope our communications reach and attract the younger crowd toward our industry. Without having representatives from the upcoming generation present to receive, carry on, and build upon our knowledge and information, our industry will not grow or survive.

The Implementation Ad Hoc Committee will provide an outline of their recommendations by World of Concrete (WOC); the first draft by the ICRI 2015 Spring Convention in New York, NY; and submit their final draft for Board approval by Fall 2015.

As we continue to attract more members throughout these initiatives, ICRI wants to ensure ease of accessibility to and completion of our membership form. Thanks to our membership committee, our membership form has been updated and revised to be more user-friendly; it will be ready on January 1, 2015, the same day most of our guidelines will be available in PDF format at no cost to our members.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say that it was an honor and privilege to have your trust as the President of ICRI in 2014. I hope my efforts and vision that have been implemented, or seeded at the least, will benefit our organization and its membership for years to come. I would not be able to serve effectively without the passion, knowledge, hard work, and suggestions of the Executive Board members—Bud Earley, Katherine Blatz, Brian Daley, Keith Harrison, Ralph Jones, and Fred Goodwin—and our Board of Director members and committee Chairs. I would also like to thank the CAM staff for their support. Moving forward, I am passing on the torch of presidency into the capable hands of Katherine Blatz, your 2015 President.

This year was truly a year of possibilities. I am proud to say that we looked outside of the box, successfully took on new ideas, and can confidently say that we are closing the year with a bang. I am sure the future for ICRI and its membership will be very bright.

