

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI): ARE WE ON THE RIGHT TRACK?



RANDY BEARD

I will generally assume we have all received and/or experienced the RFI process. A time-honored tradition of the construction industry, this type of effective communication (I understand that the term “effective” may be debatable) has incorporated many techniques that improve the communication within our industry. In this process, we receive

requests from outside sources to provide more explanation and additional detail for a variety of things. Some of the requests for information bring up potential options to issues that offer a sound alternative to what initially is proposed, thereby generating an improvement to the process.

In the 21 years of ICRI'S existence, we have grown into an organization that is a leading resource for education and information on the repair, restoration, and protection of concrete. Within the ICRI organization, we strive to provide a growing list of benefits for our supporting members and our general membership. This is our mission statement. While we strive to continually improve the benefits from the organization to its members, we could always use more ideas and thoughts to improve upon to help achieve its stated goals.

We do feel we are accomplishing our goals as the organization is growing and improving. We are witnessing the growth of our membership numbers and the improved quality and number of our documents. Again, it is evident that membership has ever increasingly stepped up to the plate and offered industry insight into new technologies, repair methods, and helped to set the expectations for the future.

We would like to receive more information from industry and association members on how we are doing as an organization, and thoughts and ideas on how we may improve our process. Some of the questions that I might ask are:

- What new initiatives, if any, would you like to see from the Technical Activities Committee? Are we adapting to the new technologies that are currently being developed in our industry?
- Is there a new process that you would like to see the Chapters Committee adopt in its participation in the organization? Can we be more effective in the participation of the members

who attend the meetings that will allow a more productive and satisfactory experience in the meetings?

- The marketing of ICRI increases our industry presence and helps grow the membership of the organization. Are there more effective ways to increase our organization's visibility and promote education and information to the industry? How can we improve our communication to other industry-related organizations? Can we improve the international presence of ICRI?
- Our mission statement lists education as a vital tool in providing industry information to members and those in the concrete industry. We are currently supporting several initiatives that take education one step further in this process. Certification programs in Floor Moisture Testing and Concrete Repair are currently being developed that will provide ICRI with a large concrete industry presence and be recognized by those in the general concrete industry, and not exclusively to the restoration industry. Are there ways to improve and better market these services? Are there other programs that our organization can develop that can be provided to our members and those in the general concrete industry?
- Can we offer a more satisfactory experience at our meetings and conventions? What are the benefits to attending meetings and conventions?

These questions can be addressed at the administrative and technical committees meetings that we offer at each ICRI convention, held at in the spring and fall of each year. At these committee meetings, the direction of the organization is developed through protracted discussions and decided by consensus of the group. You can help answer some of these questions and more with active participation at events on both the local chapter level and the national level.

ICRI has grown and improved because of the work of many individuals and groups that have put in countless hours to help identify the direction of our organization. We would like to see more participation, even in these tough economic times. We can make the assumption there are always questions. Let's work together to develop strong answers.

Again, our organization thrives on participation from industry members who are willing to provide thoughts and ideas that will help ICRI meet its mission statement and its stated goals. We would encourage those industry members that are interested to participate in the further development of our organization. Comments and information as to what you would like to see adapted within the organization are welcome and would be readily received. If you would like to participate further, please contact ICRI staff or attend our spring and fall conventions to get the most benefit from the organization.

In a normal construction project RFI process, it is not often you can actively participate in providing input to the direction of the project. Enjoy the opportunity to affect the course of history. You probably won't get this type of opportunity on your own construction projects. Best regards, Randy.

### HOW TO CONTACT ICRI STAFF

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