

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LOOKING FORWARD: CONTINUING OUR PARTICIPATION IN AND COMMITMENT TO ICRI



DON FORD

Welcome to 2011, the Chinese Year of the Rabbit. Hopefully things are going well with you, your friends, and your companies. They should be because, according to our politicians, we are now some 18 months out of the recession!

I must begin my first message by thanking our Past President, Chuck Knight. How do I follow in the footsteps of such a scholar and gentleman? Chuck led ICRI through 2010 with the charisma of a true veteran—one who was always available and always had that ear that many of us need to vent upon when things do not go our way. And how about the 21 Past Presidents before Chuck who led ICRI to the outstanding position and status we enjoy today? What an astute and knowledgeable group of individuals.

2011 is shaping up to be yet another outstanding year for ICRI. Led by your Executive Committee, along with the Board of Directors and assisted by Kelly Page and the wonderful staff at Creative Association Management (CAM), we enter the new year very strong. With a worldwide membership of slightly over 1950 and a balanced budget that exceeds \$1,300,000, not to mention money in the bank, we stand tall to face the new challenges that will certainly arise. We have 12 very active administrative committees and 15 exceptional technical committees led by the Technical Activities Committee, with Kevin Michaels as Chair and Jim McDonald as Secretary. It would be a challenge to locate another organization that has held their own as well as ICRI in this very uncertain economy. This is the perfect place to extend accolades to Kelly Page and her staff at CAM. Not only have they provided us with another year of great meetings and conventions, but they also continue to provide us with exemplary service in many other segments of our industry. Thank you!

As your incoming President, I would like to again echo the request sounded by many of our Past Presidents and Board members. **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT AND HELP.** As a volunteer organization made up of industry professionals, we produce a significant number of guidelines used by our repair industry. These do not magically pop out of a hat. They required many hours of devoted TLC by the committee Chairs and the committee members. The results of these documents are now being seen and, more importantly, used on more and more projects throughout the country and abroad. It is quite self-satisfying to see a document you worked on for several years being used in the field.

Another area that has seen significant growth is the increase in the recruitment of new members/students. Thanks to the good people associated with the Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program, we are seeing a substantial increase in the amount and quality of student activities. Mentoring these young members is a very valuable asset to each of us and to our organization, as they will soon work hand-in-hand with us in the field.

A major goal established by our Past President was to give serious consideration about who we are today—as ICRI—in all the meanings of “we” as a technical and advisory group to the industry. It is a very large industry and we are the significant leaders of that industry. To stay there, we need continued participation and commitment. Although our conference numbers continue to stay strong, we need to build on those numbers. Current conferences usually have ±220 attendees.

With the 25th anniversary of ICRI rapidly approaching (2013), that number needs to exceed 300 attendees. To accomplish that goal, we need to go back to our roots. The root of all we do starts with chapters. Currently, there are 33 chapters and growing. Special thanks to Beth Newbold (Past Chapter Chair) and Dale Regnier, Manager, ICRI Marketing and Chapters, who have worked diligently to help our chapters become stronger. The newly established Chapter Roundtable meetings have shown that the chapters are very interested in growing and helping our association. Please assist Keith Harrison, new Chapters Committee Chair, by attending your local chapter meetings and participating whenever possible. Don't wait to be called upon. Step up and volunteer! We need your help now. There are so many facets to the ICRI organization that I know you can find one of interest to you.

In Chinese mythology, the Year of the Rabbit symbol represents longevity. We are 23 years old and going strong. It is thought that the true personality of a rabbit represents an aura of calm and consideration while being a good teacher. Let us continue to be good teachers. As Past President Knight so aptly put it, let's continue to “build on a rich heritage.”

As your new President, I welcome all ideas and questions. If I don't know the answer, I have roughly 1950 others to call on. I particularly welcome your participation both on the chapter level and the national level. Congratulations to all of our new Board members, with whom I look forward to working with this year. I can be contacted at dford@watertightsystems.com.

See you in Houston!