

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## THANK YOU TO THE MEMBER COMPANIES OF ICRI



BUD EARLEY

The first of our two ICRI conventions for 2013 is in the history books. The feedback I have received from the many attendees at the convention was positive and uplifting. Some of those comments were as follows: “there were new and exciting technical presentations”; “great choice of speakers”; “the Technical Sessions followed the theme of Looking Ahead”; “it was good to see some of our Past Presidents making presentations”; “I really liked the various topics chosen from the speakers”; the location of the convention was one of the best ever”; “Wow, what a party”; the music was great, had many people up dancing”; the fireworks were a pleasant surprise”; “the Recognition Luncheon was interesting and I was glad to see the new awards categories, nice job”. There were many more comments, but I found these to reflect what we were trying to accomplish when we set our plans in motion for our celebration and commemoration of ICRI in 2013.

Although we fell just short of our goal of 300 attendees, I came away feeling proud that we were able to once again set a new attendance record. That marks the fifth new record in the last 12 years. Since 2001, attendance records were set in 2002 (Charleston, SC); 2003 (Tampa, FL); 2006 (Denver, CO); 2008 (Daytona, FL); and again in 2013 (St. Pete Beach, FL). From 2001 through 2005, we averaged 197 attendees per convention. From 2006 through 2010, we averaged 241 attendees per convention. In our past four conventions, we have averaged 262 attendees. For the first time since keeping our attendance records, we have increased attendance for three consecutive conventions in a row. Even through a recession, ICRI has been able to maintain a high level of attendance at our two conventions per year.

The attendance at conventions correlates to the membership of the organization. We are holding fairly steady at over 2000

members. Most of our chapters are doing an excellent job at maintaining their members, and some chapters have been able to increase membership to record numbers. All of this is because of the commitment and support of our ICRI member companies. If we just take a look at the growth of our Supporting Members, we can see the dedication of the companies within the concrete restoration industry. We have grown from 14 Supporting Members in 2001 to 33 Supporting Members in 2013.

I personally spoke to well over 100 people over the past year about attending the conventions in 2013. This is a historical year for ICRI and my pitch was and still is, “Be part of the history of ICRI by attending one or both of the conventions during our 25th Anniversary.” I consider myself one of the most fortunate members of ICRI. It’s not because of my involvement on committees, having served on the Board of Directors, and now being President. Don’t get me wrong—that is one of the reasons I consider myself one of the most fortunate people of ICRI. But the biggest reason is because I have worked for companies that saw the value in sending me to 25 of the last 26 conventions over the past 13 years. Additionally, they saw the value in allowing me to participate in as many chapters as I could. This, my friends, is why I am one of the most fortunate members of our fine organization. Not everyone has the privilege of such support.

Our membership is derived from many fields within our industry. Contractors, consultants, distributors, engineers, material suppliers, manufacturers, and many industry specialists combine to make up our list of members. This is the core of our organization. We are successful because of the hard work and dedication of the individuals who are consistently supported by the many member companies, both large and small. On behalf of ICRI, it is to you, our member companies, that I offer this heartfelt “Thank you!” If you happen to be one of the fortunate people, like me, who can participate in ICRI on a consistent basis, don’t forget to say “thank you” to **your** company.