

CHAPTER NEWS

CHAPTERS COMMITTEE CHAIR'S LETTER



MARK LeMAY

WOW! That is the best way I can describe ICRI's record-breaking 2015 Spring Convention in "The Big Apple"! Kudos to the Metro New York Chapter for putting together two great events! Tour Guides Ira and Mo were quite the team in navigating through the narrow streets of NYC and pointing out all the sites in our 2-hour bus tour of Lower Manhattan and the

west side. And even though ponchos had to be employed to keep those on the upper deck from getting too wet, the rain did not put a damper on a great tour. The party at the Central Park Boathouse on Thursday evening was a raucous affair, with a talented band cranking out a steady stream of popular hits that kept the dance floor filled. If you missed it, you missed a good party!

Props go out to the 24 ICRI Chapters that sent Delegates to the Spring Convention. We had an engaging Inter-Chapter Luncheon that featured a presentation on "Best Practices" used by chapters for their most successful events. The luncheon ran a little long—ALWAYS a good sign that a lot of interaction took place among the attendees. Look for the presentation on the ICRI website under the Chapter Resources section, and don't be shy about contacting the local Chapter leaders if you want more information on a particular event. The Chapters Committee meeting was well attended, with several great discussions on chapter-related topics. By now all Convention Delegates should have submitted a report to their respective chapters regarding the convention, with a copy to Dale Regnier.

I made two observations during the convention that I found to be very encouraging:

1. Many leaders at ICRI's national level continue to participate in their local chapters. This is important to help maintain a vital link between ICRI and the local chapters.

2. Many young attendees told me that they find ICRI to be a very welcoming organization, and they were not intimidated to be tagged with a "First-Time Attendee" ribbon on their convention badge. This is great to hear!

One of the highlights of the Spring Convention is the presentation of Chapter Awards. New chapter banners were presented to the British Columbia Chapter and to the New Jersey Institute of Technology Student Chapter. Twenty-four Chapters submitted their completed Chapter Award forms for 2014. Congratulations go out to the following Excellent Chapters: Delaware Valley, Northern California, Pittsburgh, Southern California, Florida First Coast, Indiana, and Pacific Northwest; Outstanding Chapters: Southeast Florida, Rocky Mountain, Quebec, North Texas, Northern Ohio, New England, Metro New York, Minnesota, Michigan, Great Plains, Georgia, Florida West Coast, Connecticut, Chicago, Carolinas, and Arizona. The Metro New York Chapter also garnered the "Most Improved Chapter" Award for having the greatest improvement in their point total from the previous year. Finally, congratulations to the Baltimore-Washington Chapter for being named "Chapter of the Year!"

Remember that the Chapter Award forms are meant to be a roadmap for a successful chapter. We strongly encourage you to use your scores as a guide to set goals for improving your chapter!

With the weather turning warmer, a golf tournament and other chapter activities will be in full swing. Make sure to send in recaps and photos of your chapter events to Dale Regnier for inclusion in future issues of the *CRB*. At the same time, let him know what events you have coming up so those can be listed in the "Chapter Meetings and Events" section of the *CRB*.

As always, thank you for your participation and contributions to ICRI! Please contact me if I can be of assistance to you or your chapter (mlemay@jqeng.com or 817-505-4304).