



THE ICRI 2015 SPRING CONVENTION

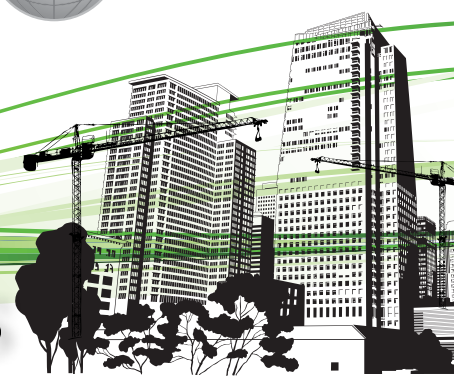
BY DALE REGNIER

2015 SPRING CONVENTION

MARCH 25-27 • NEW YORK, NY

MILLENNIUM BROADWAY HOTEL

HIGH-RISE REPAIRS



Each year, each convention, ICRI meetings continue to grow in size and scope. For the ICRI 2015 Spring Convention in New York, NY, the setting and attendance were both soaring successes! “The City That Never Sleeps” brought together a mixture of experienced ICRI members and enthusiastic first-time attendees and a record 53 exhibitors signed up to welcome the largest number of convention attendees in ICRI history: 364. Attendees enjoyed a diverse mixture of 20 technical sessions, the customary committee meetings, and the Institute’s annual Recognition

Luncheon. The 3-day event, held steps from Times Square at the Millennium Broadway Hotel, March 25-27, was an unqualified success no matter how you look at it.

The convention began on Wednesday morning with the “Visit the Exhibits” Continental Breakfast, where exhibitors were eager to receive the morning crowd. The exhibitor space at this event sold out with exhibitors wanting to share their best and newest innovations. The theme of this convention, “High-Rise Repair,” allowed for members of the Technical Activities Committee to recruit a variety of industry professionals to address topics such as new building envelope requirements, tall building façade repairs, high-rise roofing and waterproofing, strengthening with fiber-reinforced polymer (FRP), and balcony repairs. The subject matter garnered so many requests to present that the committee added an entire session on Friday morning.

The spring schedule allows attendees to attend the technical presentations on Wednesday morning with no other afternoon meetings scheduled to compete for their attention. The local Metro New York Chapter recognized why people come to their city and organized a bus tour of Manhattan for those interested on Wednesday afternoon. The tour hit all the hot spots on the island and the guides were a hit with the attendees. Despite a few moments of rain



The ICRI 2015 Spring Convention exhibit floor was another area where ICRI broke a record at this convention—53 exhibitors joined ICRI for this event



Quiet time in the exhibit area before attendees begin to arrive



Members from Sika Corporation were eager to welcome ICRI and convention attendees to New York, NY, their hometown

and chilly temperatures, the sightseers were able to take in all that the Big Apple has to offer.

Did you know that by attending an ICRI convention you are able to attend any ICRI Technical Committee meeting that fits with your knowledge and skill set? Much of what makes ICRI a strong industry association comes from the hard work of our technical committees. All the ICRI Technical Guidelines come out of the collaboration amongst our members in these committees. Contractors, engineers, and materials suppliers—experienced and new to the industry—all bring their unique perspectives to the table. You are welcome to add your unique voice at any time. Drop by the Technical Committees page of the ICRI website to see what each committee is doing right now.

The highlight of the ICRI Spring Convention is the annual Recognition Luncheon. In addition to recognizing the contribution of ICRI's Supporting Members and its Past Presidents, ICRI honored its newest Fellows, H. Peter Golter and Beth Newbold, and this year's recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, Danis Longpre. Dale Regnier handed out the 2014 Chapter Awards, honoring the great work of ICRI's chapters. Out of the 24 entries, the esteemed Chapter of the Year Award was earned by the Baltimore-Washington Chapter and Metro



The Millennium Broadway Hotel's historic Hudson Theater was filled to capacity for the Recognition Luncheon and General Session on Thursday afternoon



Attendees filled the exhibit floor for the traditional Welcome Reception on Wednesday evening



ICRI Fellow H. Peter Golter (left) with Fellows Committee Chair Kevin Michols (right)



ICRI Fellow Beth Newbold (left) on stage with Kevin Michols (right)



The Welcome Reception is the first chance for attendees to meet up and get a look at what the exhibitors have to offer



Always eager to represent are members of the Québec Province Chapter (from left to right) Jacques Bertrand, Pierre Hebert, Danis Longpre (2015 ICRI Distinguished Service Award Recipient), Jean-Francois Rondeau, and ICRI Past President Garth Fallis



Presidential Summit: Michael Tabassi (left), Past President for 2014, is thanked by 2015 ICRI President Katherine Klossowski-Blatz



Student competition award winners Brent Frickey (left) and Team Manager Jaymi Hill (right) with their award certificates after the luncheon

New York won the Most Improved Chapter award. To finish the luncheon, current ICRI President Katherine Klossowski-Blatz honored immediate Past President Michael Tabassi and introduced the 2015 Officers and Board of Directors. She also provided attendees with a brief overview of the new ICRI Strategic Plan and how it is being developed so that it will improve what products and services ICRI produces in the future. The rest of Thursday afternoon included more committee meetings and technical sessions.

Thursday is the busiest day on the convention schedule, but Thursday night is the time to celebrate. The Metro New York Chapter reserved a spot at the Central Park Boathouse and blew the roof off the joint with an amazing array of food and live music that had attendees on the dance floor. Buses brought attendees from Times Square to the Loeb Boathouse located right in the middle of Central Park. Situated on a lake, the Boathouse is known for its iconic views of the surrounding skyscrapers as well as the tranquility of the setting. Guests dined on a variety of passed hors d'oeuvres as well as a well-stocked buffet line. The open bar and the views from the deck were among the favorites of the group. To that mix, the chapter added the high-energy sounds of "The Nerds," who took the stage and shortly had the room dancing to some awesome rock and roll favorites. It



The Metro New York Chapter made sure the Central Park Boathouse Celebration rocked with an appearance by a local band called "The Nerds"



Enjoying the Boathouse Celebration are (from left to right) Kevin Michols, Todd Allen, Pete Haveron, Matt Eller, and Mark LeMay



Enjoying the evening out in Central Park are (left to right) Michelle Nobel, Ingrid Rodriguez, and Gina Crevello



Greeting guests with smiles at the Boathouse Celebration are (from left to right) Kelly Morris, Alex Somohano, John McDougall, Michelle Neri, and Charlie Mayer

is safe to say that the night did not end there for some; after all, it is “The City That Never Sleeps.”

The convention closed Friday afternoon following the final “Visit the Exhibits” Continental Breakfast, the additional set of five Technical Sessions, and a few more committee meetings. There is something at an ICRI convention for everyone. Industry experts and the novice apprentice can all find a place to make a difference. If you attend the Technical Sessions or add your voice to an ICRI committee meeting, if you walk the exhibit floor or network at one of the social activities, you will find yourself among friends and kindred spirits.

We hope to see everyone at the ICRI 2015 Fall Convention in Ft. Worth, TX. ICRI will be at the Hilton Ft. Worth from October 14-16. The theme for this fall event is “Modern Trends in the Repair Industry” and the committee is currently looking for presenters, so be sure to submit a presentation abstract before July 6, 2015. In addition, be sure you sign up to attend the 2015 Project Awards dinner and celebration. We are getting things done at ICRI and would like to extend an invitation for you to get involved. Make the most of your membership and come to a convention.



The Nerds rock out



The Nerds added more cowbell with the help of Charlie Mayer



Conga Line!



The dance floor was packed...



On the back deck at the Central Park Boathouse are Mark Howell (left) and Marjorie Lynch (right)



...as was the deck, for those looking to chat, not dance