

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ENDING 2010 WITH A LITTLE PERSPECTIVE



CHUCK KNIGHT

Membership in ICRI is more valuable today than any other time in recent history. One of our Past Presidents, Rob Pusheck, wrote to us back in 2005 and reminded us of “Putting Things in Perspective.” That one small reminder from Rob has been in my mind during this entire year. Now that the winter holidays are upon us, lest we forget that the concrete repair industry in the

last 3 years has been magnified, one way or the other, by our current economic and political climates; we must continue to invest in the advancement of a myriad of critical issues for our industry.

ICRI has been expending a great deal of effort on critical issues and sometimes regulatory challenges that affect us directly. At our recent 2010 Fall Convention in Pittsburgh, PA, we were fortunate to have an industry professional who provided us with valuable information regarding fly ash and efforts of the EPA to influence regulatory limitations regarding its present and future use within our industry. Thanks to Kelly Page and Don Ford, ICRI was educated enough to not only be aware of the issues facing us but also to be heard both individually and collectively as a professional association. This clearly, at least in my mind, was “putting things in perspective.”

The fall convention was a great success, with a special thanks to Phil Elgin and the host chapter (Pittsburgh). As the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors reviewed the activities of all committee work within ICRI, we discovered that a lot of progress had been made on the core goals of our ICRI Strategic Plan. It appeared that all of the attendees took advantage of a variety of knowledge opportunities. All 12 committee reports disclosed to the Board of Directors demonstrated a forward-thinking approach to the organization's future.

For first-time readers of the *Concrete Repair Bulletin (CRB)*, thank you for taking the time to learn more about our

organization. Despite our challenging economy, this year brought many reasons to hope for a brighter future, beginning with a firm commitment to future members of the industry; for example, ICRI's student support in collaboration with the Concrete Industry Management Program (CIM). Also, I would encourage you to regularly update yourself on our Web site at www.icri.org. The Web site is frequently updated by Creative Association Management (CAM) and ICRI staff; it provides a glimpse into and an understanding of the important role our volunteers play. It also illustrates first-hand the difference that you, as members, are making. I guarantee that a site visit will brighten your day. These are the day-to-day items of ICRI that can assist you in “putting things in perspective.”

Almost like clockwork, the topic of budgets reappears throughout the year, and there is always a great deal of debate regarding the pros and cons of each line item. This year, in working with the Finance Committee, the pros and cons seemed to merge into due diligence uniformity. Again, a special thanks to Beth Newbold and her Finance Committee members.

From a personal perspective, I think one of the greatest benefits of ICRI membership is cultivating relationships with your fellow practitioners in the concrete repair industry. By engaging and collaborating with each other, we gain insight into how to enhance our industry and respond to its challenges. After all, it is because of our membership numbers that we have become an active voice in our profession. We must continue to grow and invest in it.

Do not get me wrong—we will always be looking ahead for ways to improve and formalize our efforts to promote the core competencies of ICRI in a positive way. Your individual and pledged assistance is most appreciated.

In closing, let me emphasize that ICRI's future is bright. Please continue to be an active part of it! As an organization, your Executive Committee and Board of Directors have the necessary vision to lead the way into 2011 and influence positive change within our industry.