

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WINTER APPROACHES



GARTH FALLIS

As winter approaches, those of us in Canada are starting to be aware of having to keep our repairs from freezing and doing repairs in subfreezing temperatures. This got me thinking about the great diversity in working environments in which we are required to perform quality concrete repairs. This diversity is an area in which the relationships we create from involvement with

ICRI can be such a benefit. On several occasions, I have called someone I know through ICRI and asked for their experience and advice on how to handle a difficult situation. These environments are not limited to weather but include environmental issues; industrial projects; underwater work; and many, many others. With such a diversified membership, it gives us a huge pool of talent to tap into.

Also, with winter quickly approaching, the opportunity to be in Rancho Mirage, CA, for our fall convention is extremely appealing (not to mention the great golf there). As many of you know, I am an avid, yet not great, golfer. In golf, I see so many similarities to life and lessons for us to learn, and the same goes for concrete repair. Think of it: in golf, we need to see the results—that is, where do we want the ball to end up? We need to analyze the situation: what type of shot do we want to hit? We need to prepare ourselves to perform: visualize the shot. We need to take action: hit the ball. We need to observe the progress and results: watch the flight of the ball and where it ends up (sometimes good and other times, well, not so good). We need to learn the lesson: what did we do right or wrong in the swing to get the results we did? Finally, we need to let it all go and move on, which I believe

is the biggest and most difficult challenge. Then the cycle begins all over again.

The process is the same for our repairs, whether it is the design or the implementation. We need to determine what we want out of the repair: is it structural; does it need to be aesthetically pleasing? We need to look at details of the repair: is it overhead; what are the environmental concerns; how will the weather affect it? We need to prepare to do the work: get the equipment ready, order the material, meet with the parties involved, and more. Then we must do the work, providing quality (as in golf, where the quality of the shot is directly proportional to results) and durability. Then we must look at the repairs and process of doing them and learn what went well and what we might do differently another time. And then, finally, we need to let that job go and move on to the next one to start fresh—hopefully a bit wiser—and start the process all over again. Golf and concrete repair are similar—who would have thought?

By the time you read this, we will have started our second round of Chapter Roundtable events with the North East area meeting in Albany, NY. The first round was extremely successful in many ways, especially with one of the main goals being the improvement of the communication between the chapters and with ICRI headquarters. The opportunity to share ideas between the chapters has some of the chapters taking on some new initiatives and others incorporating ideas to be more effective in the way they operate. Personally, they have given me a better understanding of the importance of the chapter network to the success of ICRI, as well as the wonderful diversity and commitment we have throughout the organization. So thank you, all, for your commitment to ICRI and the principle for which we stand.