

CHAPTERS COMMITTEE CHAIR'S LETTER



MARK LeMAY

With the summer winding down, it is time to get ready for the upcoming ICRI 2014 Fall Convention, scheduled for November 12-14 at the Intercontinental Kansas City at the Plaza. If you have thought about attending an ICRI national convention but have yet to take the plunge, why not consider joining us in Kansas City, MO? Smack dab in the middle of the country, this

should be an easy destination for everyone to get to. With hotel rooms moderately priced, a great set of 12 technical sessions on the agenda, the revamped Project Awards banquet to try out, some fun-filled activities put on by the Great Plains Chapter, and the chance to network with fellow industry members, you will not regret the decision to attend! Registration is easily handled online through the ICRI website, so be sure to sign up today!

AND...please ensure your chapter is represented by designating your Chapter Delegate for the convention. Dale Regnier, Manager, ICRI Marketing and Chapters, has developed a special form for Chapter Delegates to fill out that makes registration a snap. The form can be obtained by contacting Dale (dale.regnier@icri.org), and the Delegate requirements can be found in the Chapter Resources section at www.icri.org. The convention registration fee for eligible Chapter Delegates is waived. Many chapters (including yours, hopefully!) help to defray travel and hotel costs for convention Chapter Delegates, which also gains points for your chapter in the Chapter Awards program.

In addition, many companies (like mine!) realize the value of having their employees involved in ICRI on a national level, and provide reimbursement for all or part of their convention

expenses. This is a great way to show your valued employees that their efforts are appreciated, and that your company is committed to continuing education and, ultimately, the design and implementation of quality repair solutions.

The question is often asked, "What does ICRI do for Chapters?" One easy answer is, "the Regional Roundtable meetings!" On October 1-2, 2014, ICRI will begin its third round of the Chapter Regional Roundtable meetings, beginning again with the chapters in the northeast part of the country. This go-round, the meetings will be held in Philadelphia, PA, at the Sheraton Suite Philadelphia Airport. Invited chapters will have the opportunity to send two representatives (preferably Chapter Officers or Directors) to participate in the meetings, which begin at 1:00 p.m. on October 1, and wrap up by 3:30 p.m. on October 2. This is a great opportunity to hook up with other chapter leaders to share ideas, visions, successes, and issues. What programs/events/initiatives have been working for you, and what are some of the things that your chapter is struggling with? You may find that you are not alone, and there is a good chance you will come away with some new ideas for your chapter and your membership. Chapters are strongly encouraged to send new Board members, as opposed to members who may have attended previous Roundtable meetings. There is no cost for the meetings; attendees are asked to pay travel expenses and one night's hotel stay. (Many chapters have monies budgeted to reimburse all or part of these expenses.) Start your recruitment process NOW to ensure that you are represented at these meetings! I look forward to seeing you there!

Enjoy the cooler weather, and do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance to you (mlemay@jqeng.com or 817-505-4303).