

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THRIVING IN A WORLD WHERE “REPAIR” IS A FOUR-LETTER WORD



KATHERINE A.
KLOSOWSKI-BLATZ

As you embark on this special issue of the *Concrete Repair Bulletin (CRB)*, I'd like to summarize upfront that ICRI is healthily surviving and poised for growth. With 6 months reserve and a new Strategic Plan underway, our future is bright!

In this issue of the *CRB* you will find the yearly “State of the Institute” summary with details on our financials, our chapters, our membership, and our conventions—all of which are progressing in the right direction.

These successes are in no small part due to the dedicated membership whose volunteer time makes this organization great. There are many improvements planned as a result of the new Strategic Plan (outlined in previous issues). So, why change? **Because surviving is not thriving!**

The improvements proposed by the new Strategic Plan allow us to focus our time, efforts, and financial resources on our most difficult task—thriving in a world where “repair” is a four-letter word.

Mention “repair” to anyone on the street and visions of failure, mistakes, and negligence all present themselves. Even within our own industry it often carries a negative connotation with many clients, leaving them with the feeling of needing to wash their own mouths out with soap.

ICRI has great plans to lead the industry beyond this stereotype. The benefits of protecting, preserving, and maintaining our built world are at the forefront of our Strategic Vision. Restoration is the most sustainable act we can offer! And for

those of us who have saved even the smallest community icon, you know—it's good for the soul as well. We don't just repair concrete—we help communities thrive. Connecting our members across the industry to realize the value of our network and collective intelligence on pressing industry trends and concerns is at the heart of our future.

We are excited with anticipation for our new certification programs to be launched. Currently, two are being finalized and more are in the works, so expect announcements this fall! Educating our industry on the basics of quality, skill, and the value of craftsmanship will support our members in overcoming knowledge gaps and people challenges in construction.

I'd like to thank all of you for the hard work and dedication you have shown. Simply attending a convention connects your experiences with others and adds value to our organization. Whether you are active at a chapter level or a national level—thank you! We look forward to honoring your successes at the Project Awards in Fort Worth!

Until then, “Repair” and be proud! (No soap required.)

ICRI's new Strategic Vision and Plan was outlined by Garth Fallis, Chris Lippmann, and Kelly Page in the January/February 2015 issue of the *Concrete Repair Bulletin* on pages 31-35 and can be downloaded as a PDF from the Membership tab of ICRI's website, www.icri.org.