

# ICRI LOOKS FORWARD WITH THE ADDITION OF SECRETARIATS

BY CHRIS LIPPMANN AND DALE REGNIER

Working with our strategic plan, ICRI made a new and exciting enhancement to its current Governance structure. On May 5, 2016, ICRI added the position of Secretariat. This enhanced leadership position will help ICRI fulfill the goals of the strategic plan as well as help implement new ideas that are brought forth from committees, chapters, individual members or other industry professionals.

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## HOW WAS THE CONCEPT CREATED AND WHY?

When looking back over the past few years, it was clear that the organization had been working on some great initiatives. The Strategic Implementation Committee (SIC) was tasked with finding the best way for the organization to move forward. The SIC could see that some procedures were becoming

more drawn out and it appeared that some committees were working in silos, with more than one group working on corresponding efforts at the same time. SIC Committee Chairman Chris Lippmann was clear with the committee's goals, “As our industry continues to evolve at an ever-accelerating pace, we wanted ICRI to be ready to work faster, work smarter, and be more proactive. We needed to set the organization on a path towards the promotion of new and innovative ideas—not be the place where ideas waste away.” Further, the SIC needed to find an efficient way to enhance the communications between our technical and administrative committees to ensure we were meeting the goals of our strategic plan.

With so many new and exciting tasks ahead, the SIC felt it was best for ICRI to enhance its institute leadership with a completely new role. The goal of the Secretariats will be to provide fulfillment of the ICRI strategic objectives under the four strategic drivers of Industry Leadership, Professional Development, Organizational Strength and Organizational Credibility. For the satisfaction of this goal, the ICRI Secretariats will be a new committee that facilitates the orderly implementation of ideas within the organization by receiving and processing ideas then monitoring the results through contact with ICRI committees, task groups, and dedicated members. The task of the Secretariats is to assure that ideas and issues are heard, disseminated, and managed by the appropriate ICRI committees and task groups. The Secretariats' role directs the ideas and issues to the appropriate committee or task group without regulating the actual implementation. The Secretariats, a committee consisting of three voting members and one nonvoting member, will report directly to the Executive Committee and give periodic updates to the full Board of Directors. They will also document and maintain a report of activities that will be preserved on a special page on the ICRI website. This new webpage and the reports will be open and available to all members.

For Keith Harrison, ICRI's 2016 President, more than anything else it means ICRI is poised to pro-

vide more for the members. “I am excited about the secretariats and what this means for ICRI. We now have an avenue for anyone’s idea or suggestion to be heard, from inside or outside ICRI,” Harrison stated. He continued, “These Secretariats will streamline a process to develop programs and ideas that in the past could have taken years. Now members can benefit from them much sooner.”

ICRI’s Executive Director, Mike Levin, echoes President Harrison’s sentiments, “The Secretariat structure will result in a tremendous new benefit for ICRI members. Specifically, it will provide an official process where any member can submit an idea for a project, program or ICRI activity. The Secretariats will manage it through the various committees and approval process ensuring the ideas will not get ‘lost’ in the system. ICRI is very fortunate to have individual members who have agreed to serve as Secretariats and provide a high level of leadership to the organization and industry.”

The Board of Directors approved this recommendation for enhancement to the Governance of the Institute at a special session on March 11, 2016. Then the search process began to find qualified individuals to agree to take these roles. This was not an easy task, as the Strategic Implementation Committee members knew they needed to find the best-qualified members to volunteer for these important positions. The best qualified candidates would serve a 4-year term with a maximum of 2 terms if re-appointed. The committee determined that the candidates must have these attributes to be considered:

- Dedication to the organization
- The ability to devote the time required
- The desire to devote the time required
- The personality to work with many ICRI committee members
- Forcefulness when needed to obtain results
- The ability to communicate with the most and least technical of our group
- The technical competence to understand their tasks
- The respect of the members of ICRI

Once chosen, these highly dedicated members would then be tasked with the following responsibilities:

- Overseeing and directing the implementation of the ICRI Strategic Plan
- Support the development of new initiatives
- Create an avenue for new ideas to be submitted
- Submit new initiatives for approval

- Determine the committees required for each initiative
- Develop task groups as needed for support
- Monitor development and implementation of initiatives
- Provide direction and motivation to committees and task groups as needed to ensure initiatives are proceeding
- Submit periodic reports to the Board of Directors of progress, difficulties, and recommendations
- Submit requests to the Executive Committee and/or the Board of Directors for actions needed to complete initiatives
- With the support of committees and task groups, submit requests for budget approval to Finance Committee with expected returns on investment

Throughout the 2016 Spring Convention, the SIC worked diligently on securing and reviewing candidates. They were able to find 15 ICRI members who met the basic requirements set out for this position. The committee narrowed that list down to four individuals that they would recommend as the new ICRI Secretariats to ICRI Executive Committee. As a result, on May 5, 2016, a motion was presented to the ICRI Board of Directors for approval of the Secretariat candidates and terms associated with each. The motion was approved by the board unanimously.

The motion recommended that Mark Nelson, Rick Edelson, Jeff Barnes, and Bud Earley become ICRI’s first four Secretariats effective immediately. Official terms of service are set to begin January 1, 2017. The position’s term lengths will be staggered with a new Secretariat joining January 1, 2018. The nomination committee will take on the task of finding and electing the next Secretariat. The following four individuals have now been added to the ICRI governance structure as Secretariats.

- **Mark Nelson**—a one-year term ending December 31, 2017
- **Rick Edelson**—a two-year term ending December 31, 2018
- **Jeff Barnes**—a three-year term ending December 31, 2019
- **Bud Earley**—a special four-year term ending December 31, 2020 (this role begins with a one-year non-voting term)



## MARK NELSON

Mark has been a member and active participant of ICRI for many years. His dedication and service over the years has been a contributing factor to our success and credibility as an industry organization on the

local chapter level as well as at the national level. At the national level Mark served on the Board of Directors, representing Region 5 over a period of three years, and his leadership abilities and technical expertise are well known and well respected within our organization and throughout our industry. Having his writings published in numerous trade publications over the years and having delivered over 500 technical presentations on concrete repair, joint sealants, exterior coatings and below-grade waterproofing, it is easy to understand why Mark's contributions to ICRI make him the perfect candidate for this position.

When asked what this role means to him, Mark replied, "I was honored to be chosen to be a part of the Secretariat group. As a member of the Secretariat, I view our role as having two purposes. First, we will work to improve communication between the administrative and technical committees within ICRI. Second, we will establish and monitor a system for ensuring that an idea from any ICRI member will be heard and acted upon."

## RICK EDELSON



It was suggested that Rick Edelson be named for this position because of his unparalleled service and leadership within ICRI and the concrete repair industry. Rick has served this group selflessly for almost as many years as

ICRI has been an association. In addition to his role in ICRI as Past-President and as the past chairman of the Technical Activities Committee (TAC), he was instrumental in the development of the new Repair Code written by ACI Committee 562, and led ICRI's efforts to develop educational materials to support the code.

What Rick said about his selection for this role speaks to his commitment to the entire organiza-

tion. "The very essence of what this means to me is in the ICRI Strategic Vision, linking Industry Leadership, Professional Development, Organization Strength, and Organization Credibility. It's implementing that link where I hope to make a difference," he said. "When I joined ICRI (then IACRS) in the early 1990s the vision was to create technical guidelines," continued Rick. "In our new vision, ICRI has grown far beyond the simple creation of guidelines. But this comes with difficulties." Rick finished by saying, "In this role as Secretariat, I hope to provide the guidance and direction necessary to facilitate our Strategic Vision from the creation of all ideas generated from within ICRI through their completion."



## JEFF BARNES

Jeff Barnes got his start in the construction industry in 1996 working as a laborer for a construction firm based in Massachusetts. From there he joined CBI Consulting, starting as a field engineer and working his way up to

project manager. In 2011 he left CBI and went to work with Atlantic Restoration as senior project manager. In 2013 he started his own consulting firm, Barnes Consulting Group and in 2014 left Atlantic Restoration to run Barnes Consulting full time. Along the way, Jeff has made it a priority to become more involved with volunteer organizations such as ICRI, CAI and SWRI in order to increase his understanding and knowledge of the industry.

"I will be able to take ideas gathered from ICRI members, whether from a committee, a group, or a single individual, and advance the organization," says Jeff of this chance to be a part of the Secretariat. "I believe the seeds for growth come from those individuals with a desire to see positive change and those who picture opportunities that might not been seen by everyone."



## BUD EARLEY

William "Bud" Earley, CSI, CDT, has almost 40 years of experience in concrete restoration, repair, and protection. During his career he has worked in research and development, sales, and tech-

nical service departments of international concrete materials manufacturers. Earley is a frequent speaker for industry groups and has had several articles published in industry publications. He has served on the ICRI Board of Directors, was the association's President during its 25th anniversary year in 2013, and has served on several ICRI technical and administrative committees. These combined experiences make him well-suited for this position.

“When I was asked to fill the role as one of the Secretariats, I was very flattered,” said Earley. “I intend to share in the efforts of all of our members to try to achieve the goals of our organization.” When asked to discuss how he saw his role, Earley added, “Communication and coordination with committee chairs and members are two of the most important responsibilities of the Secretariat. Because many committees will be involved with each submitted idea, coordination is essential. Now, with the Secretariat program in place, members will know their ideas are being reviewed by the right people and will be addressed accordingly.”

The Secretariats are already in action as they are currently screening and implementing several new ideas. This includes a suggestion to create a certification program for FRP Inspector and a proposal to design a webinar for bond pull-off tests. The committee is working very closely with staff and other members, like Fred Goodwin, current chairman of the ICRI Technical Activities Com-

mittee. Fred, too, has an optimistic view of what the addition of this position means for ICRI. “Expertise and enthusiasm required for development of worthy programs and processes existed within ICRI, but had previously lacked coordination—resulting in frustration and slow progress,” he said. Mr. Goodwin went on to say, “theirs is an important job, but only with the dedication, support, and insight from all parts of our industry can we work together to make concrete more sustainable.”

There are several other suggestions under consideration. So if you, or anyone you may know, has an idea that you would like to be considered, please fill out the idea form that is now on the ICRI website.

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