

# ICRI 2003 Spring Convention:

## Waterproofing Was an Appropriate Theme in Rainy Vancouver

By Kelly M. Page and Chris Jorgensen



Though it was quite rainy in Vancouver, almost 200 people braved the weather to attend the ICRI Spring Convention. The convention was held March 27-28 at the beautiful and historic Fairmont Hotel in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

The very appropriate theme for the convention, given the weather, was “Waterproofing.” Fifteen speakers gave talks on this subject during the technical sessions, which ran all day Thursday and Friday. According to the evaluations that were collected after each session, all of the speakers drew high praise for the quality and content of their presentations.

At Thursday’s General Session, ICRI President Allen Roth began the session by welcoming attendees to the convention. He then mentioned that one of the biggest benefits of being an ICRI member, especially when attending conventions, is the networking. To enhance this, he asked everyone to take out a business card, get up from the lunch table, and spend a few minutes meeting someone new (refer to Figure 2). This exercise proved to be such a hit that he had a tough time getting people back to their seats!

President Roth then introduced the lunch speaker, Peter Emmons, Structural Preservation Systems, Inc., who is also a Past President of ICRI, to discuss “Managing Industry Knowledge.” Emmons spoke about the development of the *Concrete Repair Manual* and how it represented strong cooperation between groups dealing with concrete repair. He then introduced the new 2nd edition of the manual to the crowd.

Emmons also discussed the website [www.Fixconcrete.org](http://www.Fixconcrete.org), a project developed partially out of ICRI’s Case Study Task Group. This group was trying to collect case studies but was unsure how they would ever be disseminated. So, the University of Missouri-Rolla, in cooperation with ICRI and ACI, was hired to put together a subscription-based website with this information. The website is now up and running, and it contains more than 400 presentations from ICRI and ACI conventions, as well as other material, such as *CRB* articles. Emmons suggested that everyone take a look at the site and encouraged attendees to subscribe.



Figure 1: ICRI President Allen Roth welcomes convention attendees



Figure 2: Networking during the General Session



Figure 3: ICRI members hard at work at a Technical Committee Meeting



Figure 4: Don Ford, representing the ICRI Carolinas Chapter, discusses chapter finances at Friday's Inter-Chapter Lunch and Forum



Figure 5: Peter Kolf (left), who chaired the Evaluation Committee Meeting, and Rick Edelson (right), Chair of ICRI's Technical Activities Committee, enjoy a break from the committee meetings at the Opening Reception



Figure 6: (Left to right) Alfred Kessi, Bob Gentile, Tim Everett, and Charlene Johnson relaxing at the Opening Reception

Though the weather in Vancouver was a bit wet and chilly, things were warm and welcoming at the Opening Reception Thursday night. As the photos show, a little food, some beverages, and good company made for a very enjoyable evening for all!

The Inter-Chapter Lunch and Forum on Chapter Finances was featured on Friday. Don Ford, Lesco, Carolinas Chapter, and Tim Everett, Woodbury Cement Products, Delaware Valley Chapter, discussed their chapters' revenue generators and how to budget the money they make throughout the year. Open discussions following each presentation gave attendees the opportunity to pose questions and discuss issues relevant to their own chapters. All of the attendees took with them some new financial strategies to apply to their chapter.

As you can see, ICRI conventions are full of interesting activities and many lively networking opportunities. We hope to see you all at the 2003 Fall Convention to be held in Tampa, Florida, October 23-24, 2003, where the theme will be "High-Rise Concrete Repair." The West Coast Florida Chapter will serve as host, with many exciting activities planned, including product demonstrations.

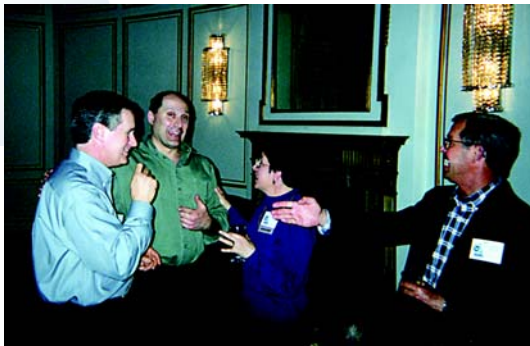


Figure 7: ICRI members (left to right) Pat Winkler, Michael Tabassi, Beth Newbold, and Dick Bonin enjoy a lively conversation at the Opening Reception



Figure 8: ICRI Past President Peter Emmons discussing "Managing Industry Knowledge" during Thursday's General Session