

Scenes from San Francisco

The ICRI 2004 Fall Convention



By Kelly M. Page

Around 210 ICRI members showed their support and enthusiasm for the organization and the industry by attending the ICRI 2004 Fall Convention, held October 20-22, 2004, at the San Francisco Hilton, in San Francisco, California.

The high enthusiasm and strong attendance also spilled over into ICRI Committee meetings and Technical Sessions. Many of the Technical Committees made great progress on the documents they are working on, and several new projects were put into development as well.



Visiting the exhibits at the Welcoming Reception



The Welcoming Reception provides plenty of opportunity for networking and visiting with friends

The theme for the fall convention was “Structural Enhancement,” which made for some very interesting presentations at the Technical Sessions. Speakers gave talks on this subject during three technical sessions spanning Thursday and Friday. All of the technical sessions drew high praise for the quality and content of the presentations. Many of the presentations centered around ICRI Award winning projects, which also were well-received.

This convention also marked a slight shift in the order of activities. Because we moved the Awards Banquet from Friday to Thursday, our Welcoming Reception, normally held Thursday, was moved to Wednesday evening. This was also the first time we held it around the tabletop exhibit area. These changes were given a “thumbs up” by attendees.

During the General Session on Thursday, ICRI President Robert Johnson welcomed attendees with a quick update on the state of ICRI. He then introduced Monica Rourke, ICRI Secretary and Chair of the Marketing Committee, who had arranged for a very special presentation. Attendees watched an award-winning documentary on the life of Rocky Marciano, the only undefeated heavyweight champion of the world, covering Rocky’s career knockout punches, with commentaries supplied by movie stars, world famous athletes, and adored politicians. The very interesting film featured actual color footage from the computerized fight staged between Marciano and Muhammad Ali that



Raffle award winner Bob Swan with his gloves presented to him by former prizefighter Matt Cusimano

was completed shortly before Rocky's tragic death in a 1969 plane crash. And, in a special raffle open to convention attendees only, the Marketing Committee raffled off a pair of boxing gloves personally autographed by Ali. These were presented to the lucky raffle winner, Bob Swan, by former prizefighter and special guest Matt Cusimano.

A highlight of the convention was Thursday evening's 12th Annual ICRI Awards Banquet. The banquet honors winners of the ICRI Project Awards, and gives attendees an opportunity to hear about these challenging projects firsthand. This year also marked the first time that the Chapter Awards were given out at the banquet. The Florida West Coast Chapter was honored with the prestigious Chapter of the Year Award. (There will be a recap of the Chapter Awards in the Annual Report published in the March/April 2005 *CRB*.)

For 2004, there were nine Awards of Merit, five Awards of Excellence, as well as the Project of the Year presented at the banquet. Hearing about all of these award-winning projects made for a full evening, but Emcee Randy Beard kept things lively and fast-paced. A special thanks and congratulations to those ICRI Award winners for their hard



Attendees enjoying dinner at Thursday evening's 12th Annual ICRI Awards Banquet



Chapter Committee Chair Tom Ouska (left), with Florida West Coast Chapter members (left to right) Bud Earley, Bud Karins, Mark deStefano, and Bob Johnson proudly display their Chapter of the Year Award



(Left to right) Tarek Alkhrdaji, Jay Thomas, Bob Charles, and Brian Fischer of Structural Preservation Systems, Inc.; Peter Kolf of CTL; and Randy Beard and Kirk Taylor of Walker Parking Consultants display their ICRI Project of the Year Award



Transportation Award of Merit winner, DeNeef Construction Chemicals (US), Inc. President Brian Iske (right) poses with ICRI's Executive Director Kelly Page (left)

(Left to right) Jim Villar, Balvac, Inc.; Rick Edelson, Tadjer Cohen Edelson Associates; Jim Gallo, Balvac, Inc.; and Rob Pusheck, C.A. Lindman, Inc. display their Award of Excellence for the Eden Roc Hotel project, High-Rise category



work, not only on the projects themselves, but on the high-quality entries we received.

The convention also held many activities for attendees on Friday. The Inter-Chapter Luncheon and Forum focused on various communication strategies chapters can use to attract a wide audience or specific target market, such as municipal employees, design professionals, and architects. Attendees walked away with an informative packet on chapter marketing strategies, including a list of the many marketing tools ICRI provides and innovative approaches that have worked for several chapters.

There was also the traditional Past-President's lunch held on Friday. This convention was indeed special, as there were 11 of the 15 Past-Presidents in attendance, the most we have ever had at a convention!

Friday was highlighted by a forum on moisture testing and mitigation in concrete slabs. This featured a panel, moderated by Peter Craig, Concrete Constructives, that included Dennis Pinelle, Simpson Gumpertz & Heger; Scott Tarr, Construction Technology Laboratories; Chris Ranwell, GE Protimeter; Charlie King, Koester American; and Robert Higgins,

Sinak Corporation. This expert panel answered questions such as: Is moisture testing reliable? Which moisture test methods should be used? Can moisture-related flooring problems be avoided or corrected? Who's responsible for a moisture problem? Who should bear the cost?

Many attendees thought that this was one of the best panel discussions ICRI has ever held, concerning one of the most challenging and controversial industry issues.

The convention was capped off Friday evening by the Northern California Chapter Social Outing Sunset Cocktail Cruise on San Francisco Bay. The Northern California Chapter hosted this special event, where attendees enjoyed cocktails and plentiful hors d'oeuvres as they enjoyed the beautiful San Francisco skyline and views around the Bay. As the photos show, a great time was had by all in attendance!

As you can see, ICRI conventions are full of interesting activities, and many lively networking opportunities. We hope to see you all at the 2005 Spring Convention, to be held at The Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts, March 3-4, 2005 (see page 7 for brochure).



Chapter Committee Chair Tom Ouska at Friday's Inter-Chapter Lunch and Forum



Friday afternoon's Industry Forum Panel Discussion, "Moisture Testing and Mitigation," was well-attended



ICRI Past Presidents. Bottom, left to right: Jack Morrow, Peter Craig, Rick Edelson. Top, left to right: Joe Solomon, President-Elect Rob Pusheck, Robert Thaxton, Ken Currence, Bob Terpening, Allen Roth, current President Bob Johnson, Steve Royer, and Jim McDonald



(Left to right) Peter Golter, Brian Iske, and Keith Goldstein relaxing on the Sunset Cocktail Cruise Friday evening

(Left to right) Rick MacDonald, D.M. Figley; Gwynn Stegen, Excellent Coatings, Inc.; and Rene Desroches, D.M. Figley

