

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES WORKING TOGETHER



GARTH FALLIS

It is exciting to have our new Technical Director in place. Welcome to Mark Hughes. Having a full-time Technical Director will provide us with great opportunities to grow and provide the technical information and advice to fulfill our mission “to be a leading resource for education and information to improve the quality of repair, restoration, and protection of concrete and other structures...” And, over time, having this position will allow us to create and implement new programs. If you have ideas of some new initiatives that you see ICRI venturing into, please let us know.

Being President this year has given me pause to reflect upon ICRI and the benefit that it has given me as a member of the concrete repair community and as a person. I have the good fortune to see ICRI from the position of wearing three different hats. I am a professional engineer that does some design work, I work with a concrete repair contractor, and there is a manufacturing/supplier part of our company. All three of these groups gain benefits from being members of ICRI—some different and some the same. Engineers and consultants contribute by providing their technical expertise on many of the aspects of concrete repair, while at the same time learning about the intricacies of some of the repair material from the

manufacturers and some practical aspects of repair from the contractors. The contractors provide the experience of “we’ve done that before” or “we made it work by doing it that way,” while at the same time learning from the engineers some of the technical reasons things need to be done the way they are done and from the suppliers about the latest repair materials and techniques they might employ. The suppliers offer a wide variety of the latest and most innovative materials and techniques, giving ICRI members an early firsthand view of what they can do and how they work. At the same time, they learn from the engineers the technical requirements of the materials and from the contractors practical, maybe new ways to use the materials and equipment they supply. All three groups, which have different perspectives, work together to increase the quality of concrete repairs. Several times I have seen (and been a part of) a group that included an engineer, contractor, and a manufacturer sitting at one of the tables in the exhibit room during a break at a convention, discussing a project, each contributing his expertise and perspective. And at the end of the discussion, each individual was better off for the discussion and possibly solved an interesting problem. This is what ICRI is all about.

As we continue through summer, our busiest season, I wish everyone well with your projects. At the same time, take some time to sit back, reflect, and enjoy life.