

CHAPTER NEWS

CHAPTERS COMMITTEE CHAIR'S LETTER



KEITH HARRISON

Spring is just around the corner. The Spring Convention will be held in Quebec City, QC, Canada, April 18-20, hosted by the Quebec Province Chapter. The Quebec Province Chapter has quite a bit planned, as you can see from the brochure already on your desk or from the ICRI Web site. Keep in mind that space is limited, so REGISTER EARLY! For the chapter meeting, we will be discussing the positive aspects of hosting a joint meeting with other local, like-minded organizations. Make sure you have your passport up to date!

By now, your 2012 Board is in place and planning has started for the year ahead. If you had a terrific year last year, it's time to ask if you can do as well in 2012. Maybe you had some ideas last year but did not have the time to put them into action. Now is the time to lay out the year and plan ahead as best you can. Set some higher goals—attendance, membership, presentations, and so on. Go back to your Chapter Awards Form (you completed it, right?) and see where you might be able to do better. Yes, the forms are at hand as part of a healthy competition between the chapters but, more importantly, they will help you track the health of your chapter.

As you plan your year, remember that Dale Regnier or I are available to visit your chapter, either for a Board meeting or a presentation. Looking for a hot topic for a local event? Just review past convention presentations or pick up the latest copy of the *Concrete Repair Bulletin (CRB)* and read about the most recent events at other chapters. Most speakers are very willing to come and do a talk for your chapter. Come to the convention this spring and join the Inter-Chapter Luncheon and Forum and the Chapters Committee. There is a lot of support available if you just ask, and we have a really good time. I hope to see many of you at the upcoming spring convention. I also welcome your calls if you have any questions, need help with any chapter issues, or have a suggestion to share.

I would like to extend a special welcome to all of the new chapter leaders who have taken the initiative to be more active in their respective chapters. I hope that you will find this to be a fun and rewarding experience. Returning or prior leaders: what can you do to help the new leaders get up to speed? What ideas or tips did you find helpful when you started that might help someone else? Getting new people involved is terrific; the next step is to make sure they have the support that will ensure that they stay involved. Do you have a binder that you can give to new Board members that includes the bylaws, policy manual, past programs, financials, and membership lists? Anyone on the Board for a while may have forgotten what they did not know, and you cannot assume that just because someone has been coming to meetings or working on a committee that they are familiar with all of the other aspects of the chapter operations.

Another area where we can share our solutions is the Chapters section of the *CRB*. If you are looking for good technical presentations or ideas for fun chapter events, all you need to do is simply look at what other chapters have done. (Who wants to reinvent the wheel?) As I said before, many presenters are quite willing to travel, especially if you can be flexible on the time. Don't hesitate to ask them; it is very flattering to know that other people are interested in your topic. And, as a final reminder on this topic, please be sure to submit a quick report (including pictures) on all the presentations from your chapter. By highlighting your program, you may give another chapter looking for a new idea an opportunity to find one.

I hope to see many of you in Quebec. Everyone is welcome at the Inter-Chapter Luncheon and Forum and the Chapters Committee meeting (don't forget to add it to your registration or sign up when you arrive). If you have any questions or ideas for the Chapters Committee or have an issue you would like to raise at the committee meeting, please do not hesitate to call either Dale or myself. See you all in Quebec City!