

CHAPTER NEWS

CHAPTERS COMMITTEE CHAIR'S LETTER



KEITH HARRISON

First, I would like to thank the ICRI staff for a great 2013 Kick-Off Party in Las Vegas, NV. With almost 250 attendees, it was clear that many of our chapters from across the country were represented. Thanks to all for coming out to enjoy the start of a new ICRI year!

I hope all the new Chapter leaders have settled into their volunteer roles after sending in their slate of officers and directors for 2013 and working on their annual calendar of events. Speaking of events and calendars, I thought it would be appropriate at this time to mention to you one of the most readily available and under-used tools of communication: the ICRI website itself. Each chapter has its own page on that site. And each chapter has the opportunity to present a welcome message, attach newsletters or flyers, and add details on meetings and events. Not only do few chapters use this but also many that do have not updated their page in quite some time. It is worth noting to all that this is the **FIRST** place most ICRI members will go to see if a chapter—one they are close to or one they may be visiting—will be having a meeting. If there is no information or if the information is outdated, what does that say? Why not ensure your chapter is represented in the best way possible? Delegate the task to a Board member

or up-and-coming chapter member and make them responsible for updating your page once a month. It's easy and it promotes the fact that you have meetings, events, demos, symposiums, and social outings coming up. A list of meetings that everyone can readily see is the surest way to grow membership and encourage participation. If anyone sees that the chapter has events scheduled, they are more likely to plan to attend, or even participate in chapter activities. This holds true for those chapters that have their own websites as well. Many people that reach you through the ICRI website will stop at this site before clicking on your link. Be sure to update **BOTH** sites and you are covered from a variety of angles. If you need help updating your page, please be sure to contact Dale Regnier at the ICRI office. He has all the passwords you may need. We wish you all the best of luck in 2013 and please remember that Dale and I are always here to help with your chapter needs.

I am really hoping that each chapter can be represented at the ICRI 2013 Spring Convention in St. Pete Beach, FL. Imagine making history by ensuring that all of ICRI's 36 chapters are represented at one convention. It has not happened yet. Are you willing to take on the challenge and push to have your chapter represented? Please keep in mind that 2013 is a year-long celebration of ICRI's 25th anniversary, so don't miss any of the fun!