

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“IT’S ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE”



BUD EARLEY

As I have come through the ranks of the Executive Committee over the past 4 years, I have looked forward to the writing of my first President's Message for the *Concrete Repair Bulletin (CRB)*. Many different thoughts and ideas passed through my mind in the preceding months. Although I have various topics that I want to cover, my first order of business is to talk about an exciting and historical event. As you all know by now, this year—2013—ICRI is celebrating its 25th Anniversary. I won't go into the many milestones and achievements from the past 25 years, as we have planned a year-long celebration to acknowledge and honor such things.

In the fall of 2010, we established an Ad-Hoc Committee to plan our celebration and I would like to thank those individuals who were a part of that committee for sharing their time and talents in the planning and development of this year's events. These events will be highlighting the history of ICRI and celebrating our 25 years of achievements. Perhaps the biggest “thank you” should be extended to the many companies and individuals who made financial contributions to our organization. These contributions will allow us to provide everything you see and hopefully experience throughout this coming year. The January/February Anniversary Issue of *CRB* was just a glimpse of what is to come; each additional issue of the magazine throughout the year will focus on many of the achievements and also the people of this organization, for without the many sacrifices and dedication from the *people* of ICRI, we would not be having this celebration at all.

When I initially learned that my term as President would fall on our 25th Anniversary year, I immediately set a specific

goal. That goal was to encourage every person in our organization that I make contact with to attend both the spring and fall conventions in 2013. My goal was to break the 300 mark for attendance. Our organization boasts over 2000 members but has never had more than 300 people at a single convention. Going forward, it is my hope that 300 will be the expected minimum number of attendees at our conventions. By the time you read this article, our spring convention will be over. Did we reach the goal of 300? I believe we did. So now, let us focus on future conventions. As we plan for Chicago to honor our beginning in 1988, we'll take time to reflect and show appreciation for all that we have done. But for now, as my predecessor Garth Fallis wrote in his final message, “*just think of the possibilities for the next 25 years.*”

Some of you reading this will be future leaders of ICRI. In recent years, ICRI has moved to new ground—downsizing the Board of Directors, empowering individuals, team-working, liberating, knowledge-basing, quality-imbuing and process-mapping, transforming, and continuously improving. One thing I have learned over my years with ICRI is that *if you want to truly understand something, try to change it.* A question repeated many times over the past 10 or so years is, “What can ICRI do for me?” If you have asked that question in the past and you are still an active member of ICRI, you now know the answer: “It's all about the people.”

“We the people of the International Concrete Repair Institute, in order to form a more perfect organization, establish knowledge, ensure proper surface preparation, provide more common technical guidelines, and promote the general welfare and security of our organization, do hereby celebrate the reason for the success of its 25-year history... the people.”