

Scenes from the ICRI 2004 Spring Convention



By Kelly M. Page

A great chapter event, an industry-wide strategic planning workshop, a forum on façade ordinance issues—these were just some of the highlights of ICRI's 2004 Spring Convention, held April 1 and 2 at the Hotel Intercontinental in Chicago, Illinois. Around 220 ICRI members, including 35 exhibitors, showed their support for the organization and the industry by participating in the convention.

The high enthusiasm of the attendees spilled over into ICRI committee meetings and technical sessions. Many of the technical committees made strong progress on the documents they are working on, and ICRI expects to have two more guidelines published in 2004, in addition to the two that have already been printed. Four guidelines in 1 year would be a record for ICRI!

Many participants arrived in town a day early to participate in the Vision 2020 Workshop (refer to sidebar for details), which ICRI was honored to host. The enthusiasm generated at this event served as a great kick-off to our convention.

The theme for the spring convention was “Façade Repair,” which made for some very interesting presentations at the technical sessions. Twelve 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.

And on Friday afternoon, ICRI's Chicago Tri-States Chapter arranged a special Building Façade Ordinances & Requirements Panel Discussion. Because many cities are considering serious changes to their building envelope codes and inspections, the panel covered what this meant for the concrete repair industry, from the perspective of lessons learned in Chicago and other cities, where these changes have already taken place. The panel—including Jay Paul, Klein and Hoffman, Inc.; Bob Joyce, Quality Restorations; Lou Lutz, Wolin-Levin; Jeffrey Winick, Stein, Ray & Harris; Hamid Vossoughi, Ropelink, Ltd.; and moderator Lee Sizemore, Monson Nicholas, Inc.—covered requirements, legal issues, and lessons learned in the development of these codes, which made for a lively Friday afternoon!

ICRI's General Session, typically held during Thursday lunch, provided members plenty of networking opportunities, as well as a chance to learn what was new at ICRI. The General Session



More than 200 people attended ICRI's 2004 Spring Convention in Chicago



Frank Apicella, Chair of the Coatings and Waterproofing Committee, covers the highlights of the new polymer floor guideline at the General Session on Thursday



Joe Solomon (left) and Bruce Collins (right) network at the Welcoming Reception, one of the many networking opportunities for attendees



Scott Greenhaus (left) enjoying a conversation with ICRI President Bob Johnson (right) at the Welcoming Reception



Gary Hayes, President of the host ICRI Chicago Tri-States Chapter, welcomes attendees to the convention



Many attendees participated in technical sessions, held in the beautiful King Arthur Room at the Hotel Intercontinental

was kicked off by Executive Director Kelly Page, who announced that ICRI membership was the highest it has ever been: 1765 members! She then introduced Chicago Tri-States Chapter President Gary Hayes, who welcomed the convention attendees, and ICRI President Bob Johnson gave attendees a quick update on the state of ICRI and various projects in development. He then introduced Frank Apicella, Degussa Construction Systems, Chair of the Coatings and Waterproofing Committee, who discussed the new polymer floor guideline that the committee produced. He was followed by Ken Lozen, NTH Consultants, Ltd., who presented highlights of ICRI's latest guideline, "Guide to Using In-Situ Tensile Pull-Off Tests to Evaluate Bond of Concrete Surface Materials."

Although attendees kept busy at these ICRI activities, there was also room for some fun. The convention was capped off on Friday evening by the Blues Night reception at Buddy Guy's



ICRI pool sharks at the Blues Night Reception at Buddy Guy's Legends



Members of the ICRI Chicago Tri-States Chapter; hosts of the Blues Night Reception at Buddy Guy's Legends



A great time was had by all ICRI members who attended the Blues Night Reception

Legends, hosted by the ICRI Chicago Tri-States Chapter. Attendees enjoyed a buffet of Southern cooking at this legendary Chicago blues bar, along with entertainment by one of Chicago's famous blues bands. As you can see from the photos, everyone had a great time at this event.

ICRI conventions are full of interesting activities and many lively (and fun!) networking opportunities. We hope to see you all at the 2004 Fall Convention, to be held in beautiful downtown San Francisco, California, October 21-22, 2004, where the theme will be "Structural Enhancements."



Rick Edelson and Kevin Michols (both standing, right) getting ideas from their group at the Design Breakout Session



Approximately 100 concrete repair industry professionals attended the Vision 2020 Workshop

Vision 2020 Workshop Evaluates Industry's Future Needs

The Vision 2020 Workshop, held March 31, 2004, immediately preceding the ICRI 2004 Spring Convention, brought together nearly 100 concrete repair industry professionals. This event was facilitated by the Strategic Development Council (SDC) and hosted by ICRI. In addition to many engineers, contractors, and manufacturers, this event was also attended by members of ACI, ICRI, SWRI, NACE, the Concrete Society, BRE, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other organizations interested in the future of the concrete repair, protection, and strengthening industry.

To evaluate key industry needs, the conference broke into several groups:

- Design, specification, investigation, inspection, modeling, and professional practice (moderated by Rick Edelson and Kevin Michols);
- Construction, safety, environment, equipment, workers, costs, and QC/QA (moderated by Scott Greenhaus and Monica Rourke);
- Materials, processes, and costs (moderated by Jim McDonald and Kelly Page); and
- Industry efforts, codes, standards, guidelines, training, and knowledge generation and promulgation (moderated by Jay Paul and Stuart Matthews).

At the end of the day, each group presented a summary of our industry needs. From this workshop event, the SDC will produce a Vision 2020 document that will summarize what the industry would like to accomplish by or before



Jim McDonald (standing) and Kelly Page (seated second, right table) moderate the Materials Breakout Session

the year 2020. It is anticipated that the attendees, as well as representatives from the industry associations that participated, would review this draft so that the final document will be published under the logos of all the concrete repair industry organizations. Look for it later this year.

This document will be widely circulated and will be used for many purposes, including:

- Research project priority;
- Industry organizational strategic planning;
- Coordination of efforts by parallel industry organizations;
- Identifying needed industry documents; and
- Identifying industry needs to be solved by service and product companies.

It is also anticipated that once this Vision 2020 document is published, more workshops will be scheduled to address specific action plans relating to the goals. ICRI was honored to host this ground-breaking event.