

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## WHAT MAKES US SUCCESSFUL?



MICHAEL TABASSI

**T**his year is coming to a close. Before we'll know it, the holiday season will be upon us—a season where we spend time with family and friends and give thanks to the blessings in our lives. This time also brings forth an opportunity to reflect upon our past, be still in the present, and set a course to improve our future.

I have been thinking about the status of the repair industry in the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s—appreciating its progress and being excited about its future over the next 10, 20, and 30-plus years. At first, anyone with a jack hammer could become a repair contractor; any material that was composed of sand and cement became a repair material; and any design professional who touched delaminated concrete could become a repair expert. As contractors, material manufacturers, and design professionals, we have come a long way by making improvements to the design, repair, and use of materials. A huge credit to the advancements made in every aspect of repairs relies solely on our organization, ICRI. By convening players involved in the repair of concrete, we have created an open dialogue and leveraged the collective knowledge of all participants to improve our industry.

The new publications from ICRI Committee 150, ICRI Notes on ACI 562 Code Requirements, and ACI Committee 562, Evaluation, Repair, and Rehabilitation of Concrete Buildings, will even further such advancements by providing more direction to design professionals and subsequently improving our industry by eliminating subpar design, repairs, and materials. Also, ICRI's Strategic Vision and Plan Ad Hoc Task Group provided its Strategic Plan to the ICRI Board of Directors. The Board reviewed and voted on this item in Kansas City, MO, at the ICRI 2014 Fall Convention. This Vision will streamline the strength of ICRI and push us further in helping to advance and improve our industry in the future.

On October 1-2, we had an ICRI Chapter Roundtable in Philadelphia, PA. The event drew several representatives from the Baltimore-Washington, Connecticut, Delaware Valley, Metro New York, New England, Pittsburgh, and Quebec Province chapters. In addition to me, our Executive Director, Kelly Page; Chapters Committee Chair Mark LeMay; Manager of Marketing and Chapters for ICRI, Dale Regnier; and Region 4 Representative Jacques Bertrand were also present. Combining the experience of all who were in attendance for the roundtable amounted to more than 400 years! This is another testimony to the strength of ICRI and the benefits that the organization is able to provide for our industry and membership. The event consisted of a rich discussion to promote and assist our chapters in the areas of fundraising, marketing, membership, insurance and tax issues, resources, and meetings and programs.

If the Roundtable comes to your area, please make time out of your busy schedule to attend. You will leave being more informed and fulfilled about your chapter, ICRI in general, and the direction in which ICRI is heading.

ICRI is not only committed to the advancement of our industry but it is also dedicated to involving the youth. Our knowledge will have maximum effect when it is shared with those who will inevitably follow us. Consequently, a priority of mine—along with the support of the Executive Board and ICRI staff—is to focus on designing an infrastructure that will include the next generation of practitioners at our events, whether local or international. Ensuring that our youth are working alongside us is yet another way that possibilities can come to fruition.

ICRI would not exist without its members; therefore, I would like to thank each and every one for their involvement, time, and hard work. Let's continue the improvements, growth, and endless possibilities over the years to come.