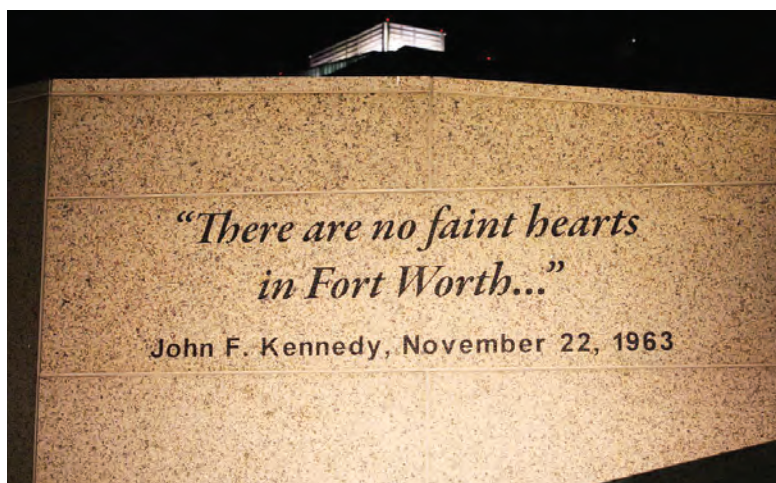


SCENES FROM FORT WORTH, TEXAS

THE ICRI 2015 FALL CONVENTION

BY DALE REGNIER

Each year, the ICRI Fall Convention gives members the opportunity to learn something new from our diverse technical presentations, contribute to important and ongoing committee work, and celebrate the winners of our coveted annual Project Awards. The ICRI 2015 Fall Convention, held October 14-16, 2015, at the Hilton Fort Worth in Fort Worth, TX, once again demonstrated that participation in ICRI provides the rewards its members are seeking.



Outside the hotel was a beautiful memorial to John F. Kennedy



The private AT&T Stadium tour arranged by the North Texas Chapter proved to be popular and completely sold out. Attendees were wowed by the size and scope of the venue



Our new tradition for fall is to begin with the “Visit the Exhibits” Continental Breakfast on Wednesday morning and send attendees on to the first set of Technical Presentations. Then, while a majority of those registered for the convention took the afternoon off, the local hosts, the North Texas Chapter, held a golf outing and a tour of AT&T Stadium.

Wednesday evening then finds attendees gathering for the official Welcome Reception. There were a record 53 exhibitors and plenty of folks to network with from all over the world. Immediately preceding, the ICRI Board of Directors hosted a private reception for first-time attendees. This intimate gathering allowed newcomers to meet the Board and get a first-hand account of what they can expect from their first ICRI convention.

The theme of this convention, “Modern Trends in the Repair Industry,” allowed for members of the Technical Activities Committee to recruit a unique collection of presentations. More than 20 guest speakers gave attendees a unique glimpse into what is going on in our industry. Topics such as emergency repairs, fiber-reinforced polymer strengthening, chemical grouting, and subgrade waterproofing drew large crowds into each technical session. Each presentation provoked discussion and provided attendees with some fascinating information.

Much of what ICRI does as an industry association comes from the work of the technical and administrative committees. So much work is done in these meetings. As an association dedicated to education, we rely on members working together to create, update, and validate our most important resource—ICRI’s Technical Guidelines. With 17 current publications available and more in the works, this work requires input from contractors, engineers, and manufacturers alike. Drop by the Technical Committee page of the ICRI website to see a full list of committees, as well as a description of what each group is working on right now. You don’t have to wait for a convention to get involved.

The convention’s General Session during lunch on Thursday included a brief welcome from ICRI President Katherine Klosowski-Blatz and featured a guest speaker whose program shed some light on



Networking and catching up at the Welcome Reception



The Welcome Reception brings attendees into contact with exhibitors



Guests (left to right) Jacques Bertrand, Ed McLean, Ingrid Shawn Rodriguez, Lee Sizemore, and Bill Mahler enjoying the traditional ICRI Welcome Reception



There were a total of 18 technical sessions that provided up to 12 hours of professional development

the irony and reality of concrete restoration projects from a legal perspective. Josh M. Leavitt, a nationally known construction attorney with more than 30 years of experience, discussed what attorneys look for in expert witnesses, as well as related testimony. He captured the attention of the whole crowd with very relatable stories and information.

The Project Awards program is the highlight of any ICRI Fall Convention and our 23rd annual event was no exception. With Red Carpet Arrivals, the Celebration Ceremony, and a grand Reception afterwards, attendees got to hear about what made this year's entries so special. David Karins and Elena Kessi, Co-chairs of the ICRI Awards Committee, served as emcees and began by thanking the panel of judges for their efforts. Each year, the job of picking the best projects gets more difficult; the 2015 panel did a great job reviewing all the submissions.

The Project Awards Celebration Ceremony provided an opportunity to learn more about the details of the award-winning projects. ICRI presented five



The Red Carpet Arrivals start the evening on Thursday. Here are Tanya Komar (center) and some of the students from Chico State University

Awards of Excellence, five Awards of Merit, and two awards for Sustainability. Then, after hearing from all three Project of the Year finalists, the 2015 Project of the Year winner was announced. A special thanks and congratulations to those ICRI award winners for their hard work—not only on the projects themselves but also on the high quality of all the entries received.



Emcees Elena Kessi (left) and David Karins (right) helped celebrate the winners of the 23rd annual Project Awards



The Project Awards Reception is where the winners get to tell more stories about their award-winning projects



Attendees at the 23rd annual Project Awards Celebration Ceremony



Garth Fallis (left) and Devon Simpson (right) from Vector Corrosion Technologies were part of the Project of the Year-winning team



The Project Awards Celebration Ceremony was followed by a Reception that included this Texas-sized slab of beef



Gervasio & Associates, Inc., won an Award of Excellence and a Sustainability Award



The team behind the Dolphin Towers Condominium were finalists for 2015 Project of the Year honors



Award winners Thomas Donnelly (left), Liying Jiang (center), and Matt Sherman (right)



The Sika team won an Award of Excellence and an Award of Merit. They also sponsored the Red Carpet Arrivals this year



Project of the Year finalists Bill Mahler (left) and Patrick Martin (right)

The convention wrapped up with a Texas-sized event at Billy Bob's Texas. Billed as the world's largest honky-tonk, there was bull riding, country music, games, and a delicious fajita dinner. Attendees had the opportunity to stay and enjoy a concert later in the evening.



The North Texas Chapter brought out their chapter flag to help welcome attendees to Billy Bob's



Guests of the North Texas Chapter arrived at Billy Bob's Texas for a filling fajita dinner in a private room



Guests (left to right) Jean McDonald, Eric Edelson, Jim McDonald, and Monica Rourke enjoyed the chance to catch up with each other



Games like this one, featuring giant foam cowboy hats, were a big hit after dinner



The dance floor was also a popular destination

Fort Worth was a gracious host and the volunteers of the North Texas Chapter added immeasurably to another successful ICRI convention. ICRI wishes to thank all the attendees, exhibitors, sponsors, presenters, and award winners for joining us. We hope to see everyone at the ICRI 2016 Spring Convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 16-18, 2016.



There was some excellent bull riding that night as well—by professionals. No ICRI members got in the ring (that we know of...)



The professional bull riders were fun to watch, from a distance—and behind strong metal gates!