

What is the International Concrete Repair Institute?



INTERNATIONAL
CONCRETE REPAIR
INSTITUTE

by Kelly M. Page

The mission of the International Concrete Repair Institute (ICRI) is to be a leading resource for education and information to improve the quality of repair, restoration, and protection of concrete and other structures.

Part of becoming the leading resource is knowing what information other organizations have on the topic of concrete repair and, where applicable, to make this information available to our members. Also, we realize that people and companies are stretching their resources these days, and rather than reinventing what other groups have already produced, we are searching for cooperative efforts with other organizations.

In this spirit of cooperation, ICRI has been developing a closer relationship with the American Shotcrete Association (ASA). Both groups are involved in the industry-wide strategic plan "Vision 2020" and sit on its governing council. ICRI has also recently published the ASA Outstanding Shotcrete Project Awards entry forms in our magazine to let our members know about this stellar ASA program. For those of you not as familiar with ICRI, here is some information about the organization.

About ICRI

This association was formed in 1988 as the International Association of Concrete Repair Specialists in response to the concerns of a number of persons in the concrete repair industry who were disturbed by the quality of many of the repairs being performed in the industry. The objective was to bring together those people who were truly interested in improving their industry and to use their concerted efforts to bring about meaningful change.

Dissemination of technical information to aid in the concrete repair process is a very important

aspect of ICRI's activities. Technical guidelines are available for direction in the proper approach to repairs, and ICRI technical committees are constantly developing additional guidelines for member approval and distribution throughout the industry. The ICRI Publications Catalog lists virtually every available North American publication on concrete repair. This includes all ICRI technical guidelines and several publications about shotcrete, listed in one convenient location for the ordering convenience of our members and others.

ICRI produces a bimonthly magazine, the *Concrete Repair Bulletin*, sent free to all members. The magazine covers developments in technology, materials, testing, design, equipment, systems, and project reports. The magazine features technical articles, case studies of completed projects, industry news, and new product news. It serves as a forum to seek and share solutions to miscellaneous and often unique repair problems. It also highlights ICRI's association and chapter activities. The *Concrete Repair Bulletin* is also being offered to all ACI members as a third alternative to the *ACI Journals*.

ICRI also holds two conventions and an annual meeting each year. These conventions are a whirlwind of activity, from numerous technical committee meetings and presentations to the social programs of golf outings and cocktail receptions. Conventions offer our members a great opportunity to network and build relationships with others in the repair industry. The annual meeting, traditionally held in conjunction with World of Concrete the evening before the exhibits open, is a great way to interact with others in the industry in a fun, social setting.

Local Chapters

Local chapters are the lifeblood of ICRI. About 3/4 of our association members belong to a local chapter. ICRI currently has 33 local chapters. These chapters provide their members with the opportunity to learn from the programs presented and to network on a local level with others in the same field.

Shotcrete Corner



Members of one of ICRI's newest chapters, the Great Plains Chapter, accept their official chapter banner

These chapters work as autonomous organizations working to improve and maintain the quality of concrete repair and restoration in their regions. ICRI chapters take great pride in the services they provide to the industry, organization, and their community. They conduct educational and social events, maintain budgets, develop strategic plans, and even host ICRI conventions. Many chapters fund local charities and sponsor scholarship programs for future repair and restoration professionals.

Most chapters hold several local meetings throughout the year, and anyone is welcome to attend these meetings. Chapters are always looking for great technical presentations, including those on shotcrete. If you would like any more information about a local chapter, please visit www.icri.org, where contact information for each of our chapters and their officers is available.

Other Programs

Awards for excellence are also given annually by ICRI. Our ICRI Project Awards program honors and recognizes outstanding projects in the concrete repair industry. Awards are given out in various categories, and several past winners have included shotcrete as part of the repair methodology. Entries are received from ICRI members around the world, and the winning projects are honored each year at the annual ICRI Awards Banquet and Reception at each ICRI fall convention and are featured in the *Concrete Repair Bulletin*. More information about the awards can be found on ICRI's website.

Education of members and those who use their services is a primary and continuing goal of ICRI. As part of the fulfillment of this goal, technical presentations and demonstrations are held at conventions, and joint seminars and workshops are held regularly with other organizations to continue to expand ICRI's role in the concrete repair industry. The Education Committee is also



Attendees enjoying dinner at the ICRI 2004 Awards Banquet

developing a certification program, with the first level being a concrete repair basics course. It is anticipated that this program will launch in 2007.

ICRI also has a Scholarship Fund. The first ICRI Scholarship was given out in the spring of 2004. This program is open to applicants who plan to pursue post-secondary education in undergraduate college, university, and vocational programs that is directly related to a curriculum of study in concrete or concrete repair.

ICRI on the Web

ICRI's website, www.icri.org, features a variety of information from *Concrete Repair Bulletin* abstracts to past project award winners. Our crowning achievement, the Online Membership Database, is a directory of all ICRI members, accessible to everyone and searchable by member contractor, engineer, consultant, or supplier worldwide by specialty, location, or name.

While noteworthy, the accomplishments of the organization to date are but a small sampling of its potential to improve both the concrete repair industry and the ability of its members to perform lasting, quality repairs.



Kelly M. Page is the Executive/Technical Director of ICRI. She is a Fellow of the Institute and has been an active member of ICRI since 1992. She is also a Fellow of ACI and currently serves on several committees.

She was recently named Chair of the Vision 2020 Council and will oversee activities generated from the Vision 2020 workshops. Kelly has a BS in civil engineering from Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI.