



# Concrete Reinforcer

A Publication of the Chicago Chapter ICRI | November 2023

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## ICRI Chicago 35th Anniversary Event

This year marked the 35th anniversary for our ICRI Chicago Chapter and what a celebration it was! The celebration took place on August 17th at the rooftop event space at the London House Chicago hotel.

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## President's Letter

As we bid farewell to the whirlwind of Summer 2023, I am delighted to reflect on the incredible journey we've had throughout these eventful months.

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## ICRI Fall Convention

The ICRI Fall Convention in St. Pete Beach, Florida, was a dynamic and informative gathering of professionals from the concreterepair industry.

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## 2023 ICRI Chicago Golf Outing

Sunny and 73 degrees... What a beautiful June day! This year was our biggest year yet with over 220 golfers!

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## ICRI - ACI Joint Event at Punch Bowl Social

This year we changed things up a bit and instead of a September dinner meeting the board decided to host a joint social event with our friends at ACI-Illinois.

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## Upcoming Events

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### **November 30, 2023**

ICRI Chicago Technical Seminar – Concrete Mixes Do’s and Don’t

### **December 7, 2023**

ICRI Chicago Holiday Party  
Pyramid Sports Bar and Pizzeria  
236 W Lake St, Addison, IL 60101

### **January 22, 2024**

2024 ICRI Kick off Party  
World of Concrete, Las Vegas, NV.

### **February 12, 2024**

ICRI Chicago Project of the Year Submissions Due

### **February 2024**

Dinner Meeting  
Erie Café

### **March 2024**

March Madness

### **April 22-24, 2024**

ICRI Spring Convention  
Boston, MA

### **April 2024**

Project of the Year Awards Dinner

### **Summer 2024**

ICRI Chicago Lee Sizemore Scholarship Golf Outing

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The poster features a dark blue background filled with colorful confetti in shades of yellow, red, and blue. A dark teal rectangular box is positioned in the upper center, containing the text "2023 ICRI CHICAGO" in white, serif, all-caps font. Below this box, the words "Holiday Party" are written in a large, white, serif font. The word "Holiday" is on the top line, and "Party" is on the bottom line. A yellow horizontal line is positioned to the left of "Party", and a pink horizontal line is to the right. The text "GAMES \* DRINKS \* FOOD \* MUSIC \* FRIENDS" is centered below the main title in a white, sans-serif, all-caps font. At the bottom of the poster, there are two columns of text. The left column is headed "WHEN" in white, bold, sans-serif font, followed by "December 7, 2023" and "5PM" in a smaller white font. The right column is headed "WHERE" in white, bold, sans-serif font, followed by "Pyramid Sports Bar and Pizzeria" and "236 W Lake St, Addison, IL 60101" in a smaller white font. A thin yellow vertical line separates the two columns.

2023 ICRI  
CHICAGO

# Holiday Party

GAMES \* DRINKS \* FOOD \* MUSIC \* FRIENDS

## WHEN

December 7, 2023  
5PM

## WHERE

Pyramid Sports Bar and Pizzeria  
236 W Lake St, Addison, IL 60101



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## Chicago Chapter 2023 Officers & Directors

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The 2023 Chicago Chapter Officers and Directors are already hard at work under the leadership of our new President, Kurt Baron.

President – Kurt Baron  
Infrastructure Systems, Inc  
(847) 706-9230 | [kurt@infrastructure-systems.com](mailto:kurt@infrastructure-systems.com)

Past President - Chris White  
CTS Tomes & Associates  
(708) 653-5100 | [cwhite@ctscement.com](mailto:cwhite@ctscement.com)

Vice President – Diego Romero  
Walker Consultants  
(312) 651-4999 | [dromero@walkerconsultants.com](mailto:dromero@walkerconsultants.com)

Secretary – Stephen Schmitt  
Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.  
(312) 325-0961 | [sschmitt@wje.com](mailto:sschmitt@wje.com)

Treasurer - Victor Ligocki  
McCann Industries, Inc. | [vligocki@mccannonline.com](mailto:vligocki@mccannonline.com)

## Directors

First year director

Joseluis Alvarez

[jalvarez@kleinandhoffman.com](mailto:jalvarez@kleinandhoffman.com)

Nick Graziani

[nicholas.graziani@watsonbowmanacme.com](mailto:nicholas.graziani@watsonbowmanacme.com)

James Masterfield

[jmasterfield@bulley.com](mailto:jmasterfield@bulley.com)

Serving 2nd of 2-year term

Peter Nelson

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

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Sarah Horton

Berglund Construction

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Tyler Bishop

Western Specialty Contractors

(773) 638-5206 | [TylerBi@westernspecialtycontractors.com](mailto:TylerBi@westernspecialtycontractors.com)



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## Sponsors

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HSS Hard Surface Solutions  
Jim Fadellin, Senior Project Manager  
(847) 838-6610



Kurt Baron  
Kurt@infrastructure-systems.com  
(847) 706-9230



Kevin Robertson  
[Robertson.kevin@us.sika.com](mailto:Robertson.kevin@us.sika.com)



(773) 522-1900



Thomas Laird, President  
(773) 406-7094



Mike McCluskey, Buildings  
& Restoration Specialist  
(630) 234-7516



Damian Allen, Sales Manger  
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(630) 501-0230



Arden Kurtjian, Account Manager  
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Bob Joyce | Tom Steele  
(630) 595-0990



(630) 325-6160



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Professional Coatings Representative,  
Concrete Projects Specialist  
(312) 656-8251



Kevin Farley, Technical Sales  
Representative | Commercial  
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(312) 448-1364



Mark Sitar, President  
(630) 649-0264



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Scott Winiecki, Account Manager  
(312) 846-4844



Steve Genovese, Branch Manager  
(773) 504-4316



Jim Becker  
(847) 214-2100



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## President's Letter

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As we bid farewell to the whirlwind of Summer 2023, I am delighted to reflect on the incredible journey we've had throughout these eventful months. Our chapter has been busy with numerous activities and celebrations, making this summer one to remember.

The 28th Annual Golf Outing to benefit the Leland "Lee" Sizemore Memorial Scholarship was an extraordinary success. With 212 enthusiastic golfers enjoying the perfect weather, the day was filled with camaraderie, fun, and invaluable networking. I extend my deepest gratitude to our dedicated membership and guests for their attendance and amazing support from our sponsor companies.

In August we celebrated the ICRI 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a spectacular party held at the London House. Membership honored ICRI founding member Marty Sobelman for his service and dedication to ICRI and the Chicago Chapter.

In September we held a joint networking event with ACI Illinois at Punch Bowl social. Membership from both organizations enjoyed a fun evening filled with food, games, and networking.

The 2023 Fall ICRI National Convention was held at the TradeWinds Island Resort in St. Pete Beach, Florida. ICRI. I'm thrilled to announce that our chapter's presentation to host the fall 2025 convention was met with enthusiasm, and Chicago has been chosen as the host city. This opportunity not only brings great exposure to our Chapter but also offers each of us a chance to shine individually. We are in the process of establishing a steering committee and multiple sub-committees to ensure the success of this event. I encourage all of you to consider volunteering—your contribution will be vital in making this convention a great success.

In the upcoming weeks, we will conduct elections for next year's Board. If you aspire to take on a board position or lend your support to a committee, please express your interest by sending an email to [info@icrichicago.org](mailto:info@icrichicago.org).

I express my appreciation to the current Chapter Board members and volunteers for their invaluable contributions throughout this year. Your dedication and hard work have made this one of the most outstanding chapters in the country, and I am immensely grateful for your support.

It has been a true honor and privilege serving as your 2023 Chapter President. As we approach the holiday season, I wish you all a joyous and safe time with your loved ones.

Sincerely,

Kurt Baron  
ICRI Chicago Chapter President



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## ICRI Chicago 35th Anniversary Event

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This year marked the 35th anniversary for our ICRI Chicago Chapter and what a celebration it was! The celebration took place on August 17th at the rooftop event space at the LondonHouse Chicago hotel. We had over 100 members and guests from ICRI National and sister chapters; we also had the honor to have 12 of our previous ICRI Chicago chapter presidents in attendance. A local DJ and magician provided entertainment throughout the night and the celebration was capped off with a grand recognition to one of our founding chapter members, Marty Sobelman. Congratulations Marty and all of our members on the continued success of our great chapter!

Below is a bit of history on our chapter:

The Chicago Chapter was created in 1992, under the leadership of Ron Bartlestein as the Tri-States Chapter of the International Association of Concrete Repair Specialists (IACRS), later renamed the International Concrete Repair Institute (ICRI). This organization was formed by like-minded professionals frustrated by the lack of standards and guidelines for concrete repair. The statement of purpose for the organization was and remains the following:

"To improve the quality of concrete restoration, repair and protection, through education of, and communication among, the members and those who use their services."

Finding a great deal of support within the construction community, the organization grew and other chapters were formed across the country, as well as in areas nearby. This led to the Tri-States Chapter becoming more focused on Chicagoland, and eventually the chapter was renamed the Chicago Chapter of ICRI. The core membership of the chapter is based in the Chicago Metro area but also includes many members from Wisconsin, Indiana and other areas around the United States.

Over the years, many of our chapter members have participated in the development of guidelines and protocols that make ICRI a prominent provider of construction standards. Today, ICRI boasts 34 chapters spanning four countries and two continents. The Chicago Chapter has grown to include over 100 members and is supported by local, national and international members. Our membership continues to be a balanced mixture of the design and specification community, general and specialized contractors, product manufacturers and material distributors. All work together to create an environment where the sharing of ideas and experiences helps to ensure that our mission continues on to the next generation of members.



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## ICRI 2023 Fall Convention in Review

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The ICRI Fall Convention in St. Pete Beach, Florida, was a dynamic and informative gathering of professionals from the concrete repair industry. The convention's primary goal was to provide a platform for attendees to come together and explore the latest technologies, products, and methodologies in the field of concrete repair. Under the theme "Plan, Inspect, Restore – Preventing Structural Failures," the event featured a diverse and engaging schedule.

The convention kicked off with a welcome reception by the Florida West Coast Chapter, setting the tone for a week of collaboration and networking. Attendees were provided with opportunities to connect, learn, and grow, ensuring a meaningful experience for all attendees.

The convention included specific events like the First Timers/Delegate Breakfast and the Woman in ICRI reception on the South Lawn. These gatherings allowed newcomers to the convention and women in the industry to connect, share insights, and build relationships.

One of the key highlights of the convention was the ICRI Awards luncheon held on Tuesday. During this event, Golf Construction was celebrated for its outstanding achievements, securing two prestigious project awards. These awards recognized excellence and innovation in concrete repair, reflecting the ICRI's commitment to advancing the industry.

In the spirit of celebrating its 35th anniversary, ICRI organized a memorable evening on the beach. The ICRI 35th Anniversary Celebration was an amazing evening that provided attendees with a chance to reminisce about the organization's growth and accomplishments while looking ahead to the future.

Aside from these social events, the convention offered a wealth of technical knowledge through a series of technical sessions. These sessions covered a wide range of topics, allowing professionals to stay up-to-date with the latest industry trends and research. Committee meetings were also held, fostering collaboration and the exchange of ideas among members.

For those seeking a unique experience, a cigar factory tour was included in the convention's activities. This provided a glimpse into the local culture and offered a relaxing and enjoyable diversion from the technical aspects of the event.

The next ICRI convention will be held in April 2024 in Boston MA.



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## 2023 ICRI Chicago Golf Outing

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Sunny and 73 degrees... What a beautiful June day! This year was our biggest year yet with over 220 golfers!!! Not only was it a fun event, but the chapter was also able to raise funds for the Leland Sizemore Scholarship. We celebrated our scholarship recipient, Jack Thoms, and the NRS team did it once again for the third? Fourth? Time in a row getting the low score in the course. This event is always a blast and we are glad to see our membership in full support of it as represented by the amazing attendance. See you in 2024!











## ICRI - ACI Joint Event at Punch Bowl Social



This year we changed things up a bit and instead of a September dinner meeting the board decided to host a joint social event with our friends at ACI-Illinois. The event was a success, we had over 75 members and guests attend! The event took place in the West Loop at Punch Bowl Social and our members were able to network within and across their organizations over a game of billiards, corn hole, bocce ball, and much more!

Thank you to our great sponsors for your support: Elmhurst Stone, Walker Consultants ,Ozinga, Master Builders, Prairie Materials, Hach, SGH, Vector Corrosion Technologies, Jensen Hughes, WJE, Infrastructure Systems, Walter P Moore, GCP, Euclid, Humboldt, Wille Brothers Company, and RRJ.