Michigan Hosts First Official Meeting

On May 18, The Michigan Chapter had its first official meeting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, Romulus, Michigan. After a Mexican-style buffet, everyone was updated on the status of the chapter and goals for the upcoming year. Then, guest speaker Michael Lepech, Advanced Civil Engineering and Materials Research Laboratory, the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, gave a presentation titled “Engineered Cementitious Composites and Life Cycle Analysis.” Lepech did an excellent job and many questions were generated due to the high level of interest in the topic.

After the presentation, attended by more than 25 people, ICRI Technical Guideline No. 03732, “Selecting and Specifying Concrete Surface Preparation for Coatings, Sealers, and Polymer Overlays,” was raffled off. Brad Costello, Barnes and Sweeney, was the winner. An ICRI Michigan Chapter commemorative clock was also raffled. Ken Lozen, NTH Consultants, one of ICRI’s founding members, won the clock.

Doug Barron, DJ Burron, LLC, won a 50-50 raffle, which he generously donated back to the chapter.

The Michigan Chapter, which officially became a chapter at the ICRI 2006 Spring Convention, would like to thank Michael Lepech for his great presentation. We would also like to thank the companies who sponsored the evening: Degussa, Sika Corporation, Structural Group, and W.R. Meadows. If you are interested in joining the chapter, please e-mail Chris Albright of the Membership Committee at christopher_albright@hotmail.com.

North Texas Chapter Hits Big in April and May

ICRI’s North Texas Chapter was thrilled with the turnout at its April meeting. Crystalline waterproofing was a popular topic and guest speaker Alfonso Urquidi, Kryton International, held the crowd’s attention as he took time to describe the process along with the benefits of choosing that method. If you missed the meeting, you missed not only a great presentation, but also missed the chance to win an iPod and a $100 American Express gift card. Both prizes were awarded at this meeting in an effort to increase meeting attendance.

Meeting sponsors (who also helped provide the raffle prizes) were Euclid Chemical Company, Jaster-Quintanilla Dallas Engineers LLP, and Sika Corporation.

May was no exception for North Texas. The topic was shotcrete, or pneumatically-applied concrete. Guest speakers Mark LeMay, Mobile Enterprises, and Scott Olsen, Machine Technologies, discussed the history of shotcrete, its composition, the different uses for pneumatically-applied mortar, the equipment used, surface preparation requirements, methods of application, and nozzleman certification. The pair also used case studies like the 2005 repair of the State Highway 183 Bridge over MacArthur Boulevard in Irving, Texas, to highlight the versatility of this time-tested material.

Southwest Florida Starting Out Strong

The First Inaugural Golf Outing for the newly chartered Southwest Florida Chapter was a huge success with 52 people in attendance. The chapter would like to thank Terry Townson and the Florida West Coast Chapter, plus all of those who contributed time, teams, and sponsorship. Teams from Coastal Construction Products and Sherwin Williams tied for first place and H&E Equipment Services took second place.

The chapter is growing at a fantastic pace with the addition of nine new members at its most recent meeting. The March meeting boasted 24 attendees and a presentation by Dave Hunter, PE, Eldorado, and Melanie Kumaze, Habitat for Humanity of Collier County. The chapter looks forward to making a charitable contribution to this worthy cause.

The chapter has also rolled out plans for a scholarship for Florida West Coast University’s UA Whitaker School of Engineering. Information will be posted on the Web soon. The future continues to look bright with plans for a SWF Poker Night in June and a presentation on corrosion mitigation systems in July from Chris Ball, Vector Technologies.