

CIRT Meeting Report

2006 Fall Conference — Colorado Springs, CO



A beautiful resort setting, lovely weather, a strong program and a record-setting number of CIRT members in attendance made for a very memorable and successful Fall Conference. It is our hope that this newly-designed Meeting Report will give you a quick glimpse into all that occurred and will give you a sense of the distinctiveness of the Round Table. In addition, please visit CIRT's website (www.cirt.org) where you can download copies of the available speaker handouts.

Lessons from Antarctic explorer still relevant in today's corporate world

Margot Morrell, author of *Shackleton's Way*, opened the CIRT Fall Conference with the compelling and heroic story of Sir Ernest Shackleton and his remarkable Antarctic expedition of 1914.

How did this one man overcome the greatest of obstacles and extreme circumstances to successfully lead his crew to safety after a harrowing two-year fight for their lives?

In large part the quality that defined Shackleton above all others was optimism. His crew noted in their expedition journals that he exhibited optimism even under the most difficult circumstances and they all eventually came to realize that Shackleton's optimism was the key to their survival. In addition, his people-centered approach to leadership and methods can be applied by today's leaders to their own work situations to achieve the following:

- ◆ Creating a Path to Leadership
- ◆ Hiring an Outstanding Crew
- ◆ Creating a Spirit of Camaraderie

- ◆ Getting the Best from Each Individual
- ◆ Leading Effectively in a Crisis
- ◆ Forming Teams for Tough Assignments
- ◆ Overcoming Obstacles to Reach a Goal
- ◆ Leaving a Legacy

Shackleton's example also shows the importance of injecting humor into a situation, how to bond with a staff without losing status as the boss, and when to nurture. His story is, in its essence, an inspirational tale about unleashing personal strengths you never knew you had in order to achieve goals, from the small to the miraculous.

Margot has put together "collected wisdom" from our members' conversations that took place during the conference session and which can be found on CIRT's website.

If you would like to contact Margot Morrell, she can be reached at 212-446-6720.



*Margot Morrell,
author of Shackleton's Way*



Safety: Sharing Best Practices

CIRT member **Charlie Bacon** (Limbach Facility Services, LLC); and **Jay Greenspan** (JMJ Associates) led this two-part session which introduced "Incident & Injury Free" and then more fully explored how this new culture can be incorporated into the fabric of your companies. Jay Greenspan can be reached at jgreenspan@jmj.com, and the handouts can be found on CIRT's website.



Surety: Understanding Your Business Partner

The three major players of the surety industry – **Terry Cavanaugh**, Chubb Surety; **Michael Noe**, St. Paul/Travelers; and **Bill Cheatham**, Zurich North American – addressed the numerous factors affecting the surety markets' capacity to underwrite bonds. Mike provided attendees with a historical overview of the surety industry; Terry reviewed property and casualty industry results; and Bill Cheatham talked about the economic cycles as they relate to the surety industry as well as identifying the top seven loss factors. All three handouts can be found on CIRT's website.

A Conversation with ENR

Burleigh Morton, Senior Director, Research & Analytics, McGraw-Hill Construction, led a dialogue on the release of McGraw-Hill's report, "Key Trends in Construction", which has uncovered some trends and issues facing the industry. All CIRT members received a copy of the report, but if anyone is interested in purchasing additional copies, please contact Jane at jane@cirt.org.



Linda Figg (Figg Engineering); **Ross Myers** (American Infrastructure); **Pete Vigue** (Cianbro); and **Dan Baker** (Baker Concrete Construction) share a laugh.



Don Greenwood (Burns & McDonnell), left, shares a comment with **Dennis Galligan** (Balfour Beatty); and **Doug Pruitt** (Sundt Construction).

Announcing the CIRT 2007 Conference Dates

April 23–25, 2007
The Four Seasons Hotel
Washington, DC

October 28-31, 2007
The Ritz-Carlton
Grand Cayman Island



Patrick MacLeamy (HOK Group), left, and CIRT Chairman **Ron Drnevich** (Gannett Fleming), right, listen to **Bill Yates** (The Yates Companies) during one of the sessions.



Ken Isaacs (Graycor); **Joe Cibor** (Fugro Consultants); and **Murray Savage** (PSI) listen intently to a colleague.