

NCR Leaders,

Please forgive my internet snafu Wednesday morning. I offer this memo to update you on the activities of your Officers, RDC's, and committee Chairs.

In my campaign to visit all of our NCR Chapters, I have traveled this month to the Greater Saint Louis, Chicago, and Milwaukee Chapters. As some of our largest and most vital Chapters, these three serve as outstanding examples of the success that stems from offering real value to their Members. I urge each of you to visit their respective websites for a look at some of the outstanding programs being presented.

Each of the three Chapters graciously offered me the opportunity to meet with their Board as well attend their regular monthly Chapter gathering.

In each case, I found enthusiastic and engaged chapter Leaders planning for both upcoming events and the long-term success of their organization. I was able to share news of exciting events and programs from other NCR chapters and bring away great ideas to pass along. Thank you all for your hospitality; I can't wait to come back.

In response to a request voiced at our annual meeting in Minneapolis, I have asked NCR Vice President David Dixon to investigate alternative succession plans for our Region officers. In our shared opinion, the current system of staggered terms undermines both leadership development and continuity in our Region. David and I have solicited models of succession from other Regions as well as a number of Chapters. Our original intent was to have a recommendation ready for the Board by this time so a nominating committee could offer candidates in time for the national ballot.

In retrospect, that seems overly ambitious and perhaps precipitous. As any change should be fully debated and likely require changes to our Region by-laws, I have now asked former NCR president John Rickert to form an ad-hoc task team of our more experienced Region Leaders to consider the wisdom and ramifications of such a change. I am optimistic their recommendation(s) can be published in advance of our annual meeting in Wichita.

When telecommunications are re-established, I look forward to introducing our newest Region District Coordinator, Kermit Duncan. Kermit will serve the Minneapolis-St. Paul, Twin Ports, and North Dakota-Red River Valley Chapters. Kermit joins our (finally!) complete cadre of RDC's:

- Kermit Duncan - Northwest
- Gerard Capell - Northeast
- Stephen Conrath - Central
- Wiley McMillan - Southwest
- Randy Chappell - Southeast
- David O'Bryan - Non-Affiliated

Each of these gentlemen serve as volunteer advisors to the Chapters in their respective districts. Each has been recruited for their years of success as Chapter, Region, and Institute leaders. Please take advantage of these tremendous resources.

Similarly, our NCR Committee Chairs bring great expertise in their particular specialty. These are not honorary positions! These folks know their stuff and are eager to assist your Chapter and your Committee Chairs in providing high quality initiatives in their area of expertise:

- Awards - Steve Gantner
- Certification - Andrea Zawodny
- Education - Wiley McMillan
- Membership - Fred Burr
- Technical - George Everding
- Website - Peter Dinschel

Each of these talented and experienced leaders will be presenting an hourlong program on their respective committee responsibilities for NCR Chapter leaders at the upcoming NCR conference in Wichita. Each also has been asked to reach out to the Chapter Committee Chairs for their specialty to answer questions and share successes. If you have not heard from your Committee Chair, please call or email them. They have very real successful experience to share!

Speaking of the Wichita conference, Mid-Kansas Chapter president Clark Simpson, and Conference Chairs Keith Showell and Scott McNeil have been hard at work preparing for our arrival next May. They have a full slate of educational programs in place as well as several terrific social events planned. Of course, the nationally-recognized NCR President-Elect training will be a feature once again. This is an outstanding jump start to your year as Chapter leader; please don't miss this opportunity to study with proven professionals.

We have also now cemented plans for the 2015 NCR conference. A motion was carried at the recent Region Caucus at CONSTRUCT to offer to hold a bi-Region conference in May of 2015 with our fellow CSI stalwarts from the Great Lakes Region. David Dixon and I presented this proposition to the GLR at their own caucus that same day. It was favorably, if informally, received. We have now learned that a full vote of the GLR has unanimously accepted our overture.

The Chicago and Northern Illinois Chapters of the NCR will team with the Detroit Chapter of GLR to put on a bi-Region conference in the Chicagoland area in May or early June of 2015. President Dewain Peterson of the Northern Illinois Chapter has taken point for the project and will have more to report soon on this exciting event.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not attempt to enlist your aid in fulfilling Grif's admonition that we seek every opportunity to highlight the successes of our North Central Region Chapters and Members. Please be mindful of your programs and publications, and especially your people. Keep an eye on the awards deadlines for Chapter, Region, and Institute (ask Steve Gantner for help if you have questions!). No one is getting paid for the volunteer work we all do in service to one another; recognition is our most sincere thanks.

Recognition and awards (and the maintenance of those records) are also critical to those rising stars in your organizations who may one day stand for Fellowship. We must always be on the lookout for opportunities to develop future leaders.

Thank you for your patience with my technical ineptitude this week. Please don't hesitate if I may be of service.

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