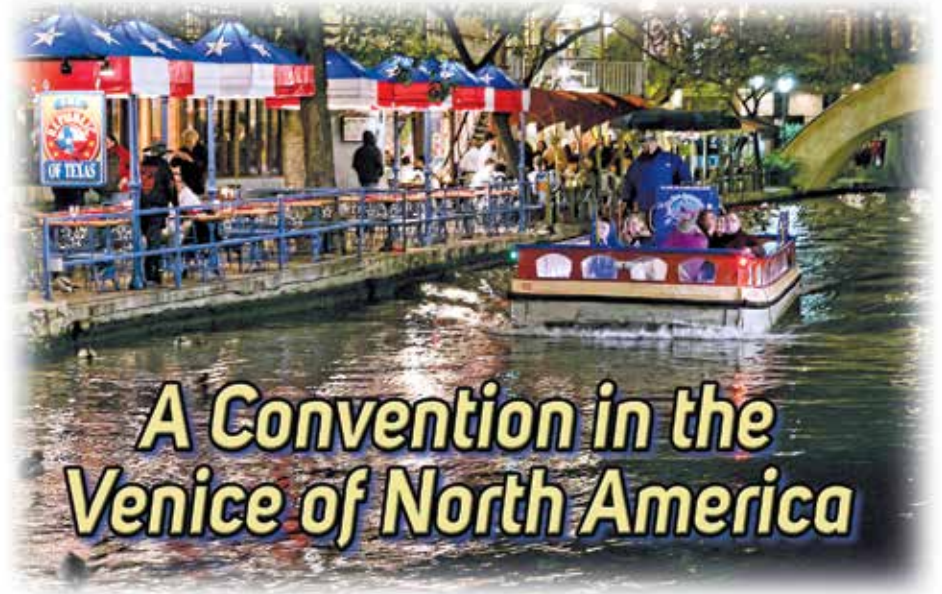


A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Jean-Guy Levaque, RRC, RRO  
President



I have just come back from our Annual Convention in San Antonio. I was pleasantly surprised to discover a city that caters to its downtown tourism population. The canals, restaurants, and easy access allow people to experience a place different from most North American cities. It truly stands out as the Venice of North America. One small item was that we could have used a bit of cooperation from the weather to feel the full impact of the setting.

I want to thank the membership for the privilege of serving as president of RCI. With the support of our members, the Board of Directors and RCI, Inc. personnel can fulfill their mandates and provide leadership at all levels.

The convention this year was important for the future of RCI. Not only did we have a near-record attendance with robust education components, excellent support from vendors in various disciplines, and great social programs to bring together our fellowship, but we confirmed as an association of professionals that we have a strong voice in the building industry. Our guest speaker at the opening ceremony, Doctor Jerry Punch, provided inspiration to us all and offered a wake-up call to each of us to be advocates for our profession. His speech reminded us to always remember where we have come from while forging our future.

The strength of RCI, Inc. is based on a variety of components. A strong and growing membership base, now over 3,000 members, is becoming a credible voice in the industry. Our education programs allow

members and nonmembers the opportunity to learn, raising the bar in our professions. Our registration programs have provided a benchmark/standard in an often unregulated industry, and these credentials are more and more a requirement in various RFPs issued by clients. Demands for our registered members are growing, and this further stimulates interest in joining RCI and in existing members wanting to achieve and maintain these registrations. At our first meeting following the Annual Meeting of the Members, our Board of Directors voted in favor of starting the process towards establishing the Registered Exterior Wall Observer (REWO) registration, in response to demands from various sectors of the industry for better-qualified observers. Again, this will raise the bar, and RCI will be stronger as a result.

Our Board of Directors has the mandate to represent the interests of our members, and the message was evident at the Annual Meeting of the Members, where an overwhelming majority of members stood in solidarity, supporting our position statement on procurement. For those who did not have the opportunity to attend, a call for this solidarity was made during a speech from Tom Gernetzke on behalf of the Jury of Fellows in response to an article published in the March issue of *Interface*. I have issued a statement to the membership in response to this article. I believe that we are now even stronger as a whole in our position to educate the general public on the need for qualified and professional RCI members.