

CORROSION INSTITUTE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PRESIDENTS REPORT 10 SEPTEMBER 2009

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 35th Annual General Meeting of the Corrosion Institute of Southern Africa. A special welcome to visitors and members who joined us during the year.

The weakening economic climate over the past year pushed end-user demand to extremely low levels, and with that, orders for suppliers to the corrosion protection industry. Large projects were not affected as severely as other industries such as the automotive industry. Consultants active in the industry experienced minimal impact – emphasizing the lack of expertise at this level. Indications are that the economic situation is strengthening – which will bring much needed relief to many companies.

The past year certainly was a busy one, but to gauge our effectiveness, it is good to remind ourselves of our principal duties, as detailed in our Constitution:

- a) Providing forums for discussion of corrosion and its prevention
- b) Encouraging training in corrosion technology
- c) Recognising merit in this field
- d) Promoting scientific research into corrosion
- e) Enlisting a wide membership, and
- f) Promoting standardisation and high quality

I will now report on a few activities for the past year.

a) Providing forums for discussion of corrosion and its prevention

The technical evenings fulfil one of the important tasks of the institute by providing networking opportunity and camaraderie in the industry. The technical programme in Gauteng has been ably organised by Bruce Trembling. Representing the wide field of corrosion, a varied programme was presented that covered coatings, concrete, stainless steel and structural steel. A visit to the Gilroy micro brewery was a highlight as well as the presentation by Janet du Preez, giving feedback to CorrISA members on Council's plans for the future (titled: Vision, Value and Vooma). Another highlight was the three presentations made by Mike O'Brien from the US. The attendance to Mike's presentations helped to boost our average attendance figure to 33 – significantly higher than the usual 25.

Similarly, Buster Armstrong and crew are doing a sterling job in KZN, and I receive regular updates of a vibrant group with a lot of energy. A varied programme has also been presented with good attendance throughout the year.

Mike O'Brien also presented at the Western Cape branch – with an excellent turnout of 76 people. This clearly demonstrates a need in the area, and more effort should be made to get this branch up and running again in the coming year.

To further create awareness, I also gave a presentation at one of the technical evenings for the Institute of Structural Engineers; titled Corrosion of Structures. This presentation was attended by 41 people.

CorrISA also endorsed an IRR conference, 'Corrosion Control', where I chaired the event. Again, this helped to increase our profile in industry and we also obtained various leads (several handbooks were sold and queries about our courses received).

b) Encouraging training in corrosion technology

Significant progress has been made on the education front – mainly through the NACE programmes, under the auspices of Neil Webb and John McEwan. Not only does this activity fulfil a vital role in the Institute's mandate to combat corrosion through direct education, but it also provides a feeder stream for Institute members and contributes towards the sustainability of the Institute by providing a revenue stream. A total of 317 people were trained during the year on the various programmes, as described below.

CorrISA Course

The 5-day Corrosion Engineering course was presented twice in Gauteng during the last year. One in September 2008 with 15 delegates and one in May 2009 with 20 delegates. Another course is scheduled to run in Gauteng next week with 21 registrations (14 to 18 September). A course is also scheduled for KZN and there are already 18 registrations. A total of 366 people have attended this course to date, which is a compliment to those who had the foresight and dedication to compile the course some 16 years ago.

John McEwan recently improved the course by reviewing and updating all the course slides and question banks. Thank you to John and all the other contributors of the respective chapters.

NACE Courses

Ten NACE courses were presented from July 2008 to June 2009 with a total of 208 attendees of which 154 passed. Considering that 269 people attended NACE courses prior to June 2008, it demonstrates the effort during the past year. The total number trained since inception is therefore 477. Apart from the CIP and CP programmes offered in the past, a CP2 Marine course was also presented in Hermanus. In addition, a NACE Corrosion in Refineries course have also been arranged to be presented in Durban in November 2009.

A special thank you to:

- John McEwan - NACE administrator
- Beverley van Niekerk for doing most of the day-to-day administration
- The local instructors including Bruce Trembling, Chris Ringas, Craig Botha and Neil Webb
- Corporate members for support and sponsorship including, Blastrite, Plascon, Storm Machinery, Sigma Coatings, Jotun, Stoncor, Southey, Sasol Gas, Transnet Pipelines and Rand Water

Congratulations to two of our CP instructors, Craig Botha and Chris Ringas, who have been promoted to Lead Instructor status.

The Institute has inaugurated the Walter Barnett Scholarship for level 2 courses in CIP or CP in memory of Walter, past president and Gold Medallist of the Institute during the year.

Petrochemical Corrosion Course

CorrISA also successfully developed and presented an in-house corrosion course for a major petrochemical company during the year that was attended by 34 delegates. Another course is scheduled to be presented in October 2009.

This was a particularly satisfying project where the end-user recognised CorrISA as an authority in corrosion technology. The course was developed by CorrISA with contributions from various individuals and metal associations. Special thanks to all the contributors of this course.

SAQCC

A number of Institute members remain active in the SAQCC (Corrosion Protection) committee. This is an important activity to ensure acceptable standards and relevance of course material. To this end, Level 1 and Level 2 Coatings Inspector courses are in the pipeline to be re-written as one course. Louis Pretorius as Chairman SAQCC is coordinating this effort.

Petro.t.ex 2009

A successful workshop was held in conjunction with the Petro.t.ex exhibition in June. Dr Chris Fowler (NACE Vice President) presented the workshop on materials selection and testing in sour service (i.e. refineries). The workshop was attended by 40 delegates. CorrISA together with NACE also shared a booth at the exhibition where over a 100 people completed the register requesting information. The stand was manned by various Council members that allowed in-depth technical discussions with delegates. Several textbooks were sold, requests made to receive information about our technical evenings as well as our courses. Tony Keane (NACE Executive Director) was also present to field queries.

Other Courses

An enquiry was received to develop a bespoke course for the nuclear industry. A quote was sent, and will be handled similar to the Petrochemical course referred to above.

Enquiries have also been received through the Electrolysis Commission for short introductory / refresher courses in cathodic protection basics.

c) Recognising merit

A significant amount of effort is still needed to attract suitable applications for the Annual Institute award. We have received a few applications this year and might present this award during our Awards Dinner next month.

d) Research and Publications

To further create awareness and promote research in corrosion, two Ivan Ogilvy scholarships were awarded in the last year. The recipients were Charlene Singh from the University of KZN and Mompumelelo Thyanjekway from Wits University. Of concern is that CorrISA was not represented at the poster sessions held last year at either the University of Pretoria (UP) or Wits.

The Institute is pursuing various possibilities in terms of re-establishing Corrosion Education at Tertiary Institutions.

The SA Mechanical Engineer remains an important mouthpiece to communicate to a wide audience. Thanks to Vanessa Sealy-Fisher for supplying and coordinating relevant material for publishing. CorrISA also supplied an article that was published in Engineering News's annual feature on Corrosion, Coatings and Tribology.

e) Membership

Our membership remains relatively stable at about 300 members, see below. It is encouraging to see that the Company Members are growing. The individual member figures are slightly more erratic since a one-year free membership is offered to attendees of courses, and membership is not always continued.

	Sept 2007	Sept 2008	Sept 2009
Company members	82	85	90
Individual members	174	163	174
Honorary members	12	13	12
Retired members	24	24	24
Fellow members	10	10	9
TOTAL	302	295	309

f) STANSA

The Institute is active in the ongoing review of Standards relevant to the corrosion protection industry. Significant progress has been made in the last year with the adoption of a new South African Cathodic Protection standard in July, and the review of pipeline coating and lining standards which are expected to be released shortly.

PUBLICITY AND WEBSITE

Following on the mandate from members at the last AGM to develop and promote the Institute's image and operations in the training sphere, the Council appointed Janet du Preez to assist with the development of a marketing strategy and the implementation of the re-vamped website, which has been a thorn in our flesh for some time. The intention is launch the new website at the Awards Dinner next month.

SOCIAL

Gauteng region had a great golf day last year, with 26 four balls participating. Barlow World Plascon (Don Cochrane, Greame Carr, Eugene Els and Ralph Wilson) won the Four Ball Alliance competition, while the Blastrite Pink Ball competition was won by Storm machinery (Craig Fraser, Faan Grobelaar, John Lubbe and Kevin Richardson). R7 636 was raised and donated to the Guide Dog Association. Thank you to the Golf Committee for your hard work to ensure a great success and enjoyable day, consisting of Andrew Stuart, Greg Howarth, Charlene Bossert and Paddy Momberg.

KZN also had a successful day and raised R14 000 that was donated to Hospice. Thank you to Buster Armstrong and his team for their great efforts.

A second fishing day was held at Trout Hunters in Tarlton in April. It was a fun day for family members to socialise, and a big thank you goes to Bruce Trembling, Vanessa Sealy-Fisher and Beverley van Niekerk for arranging the day. Thank you also to the sponsors of the prizes including Jotun Paint, Mintek, Sigma Coatings and Trout Hunters.

On a sad note we had to say farewell to Walter Barnett who passed away earlier this year. His contributions over the years played a huge role in making the Institute what it is today. He will be sourly missed.

COUNCIL AND SECRETARIAT

A great thanks to all the Council members and Regional Committee members for sacrificing their valuable time during the year. Without your efforts, none of the above would have been possible. Unfortunately, Bob Wilmot resigned during the year as Vice President and from Council. I would like to thank Bob for his valuable contributions over the years. Vanessa Sealy Fisher was elected as 2nd Vice President during the year to fill the vacancy.

A special thank you also to Beverley for taking care of all the administrative duties.

CONCLUSIONS

It has been a very busy and successful year. One of the major contributing factors was the appointment of an Operating Officer, John McEwan. The creation of this position was endorsed by CorrISA members at a previous AGM, and this is certainly paying dividends - as indicated with John's involvement in activities throughout the report. Council no longer just talks about initiatives, but can now actually do something about it.

The Institute is currently in a sound position w.r.t. a number of areas:

- There are a suit of courses to continue our education drive. Efforts are ongoing to expand on this.
- We built up reserve funds to finance new projects
- Council have new blood to drive the Institute forward

I would like to thank the Institute for the opportunity to have been president for the past two years. All the best to Louis Pretorius for his tenure as President of CorrISA.

Deon Slabbert
Outgoing President
September 2009