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About the Cover . . .

See related story on page 36.

A case study from Huntington Park City.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am writing this article in the middle of the fall. In central Arizona there is not a visible change in the seasons, it just gets a lot cooler than goodness.

The onset of autumn is often used as a metaphor for change. I think all of us are aware that the world around us is changing at an incredible rate. In our business, technology and regulations seem to change over night. The ink isn't even dry on the latest revision of the MUTCD and there are already proposed changes.

The leadership of IMSA has worked hard to keep our association successful and progressive in the face of this tidal wave of change. The move to renewable certification was somewhat prompted by the recognition that our work environment was being affected immensely by changes in population, technology, equipment, and regulations.

For us to be effective and efficient as a public safety workforce we must continually update our knowledge and skills. The vision of the IMSA is to be the "leading international resource for information, education and certification for public safety." We have made tremendous strides improving our certification programs. We have updated most of the certification programs and have funded updates for the remaining ones. Additionally, we have put in place a contract that will monitor and identify industry and regulatory changes. Once a change is identified, the affected certification program will be modified quickly to reflect the change.

On the information front, we have one of the finest interactive Websites in our industry. The IMSA website holds a wealth of valuable information and a "member's only" page that allows for the sharing of ideas, as well as a forum for problem solving.

We are very fortunate to have Doug Aiken heading our Wireless Technologies Office. Doug is a true dynamo who's vast technical knowledge and dedication to the IMSA is an invaluable asset. Doug recently proposed that the IMSA obtain its own Web server. He put together a detailed presentation that even a techno-challenged person like me could understand. The Executive Board voted to accept his recommendation. We will be purchasing a new server that will allow us to grow the Website and give us the power to provide even more information to our members and associates.

Any one who has been an IMSA member for a while and who has read the "Journal" can recognize that the "Journal" keeps getting better and better. With my own writing-phobia, I have come to really appreciate the talent of the folks who contribute articles to the *IMSA Journal*. Assistant Editor, Sharon Earl, does a fantastic job of rounding up articles, and organizing the content. The vendor's product bulletins and technical write-ups are also quite helpful.

The "Journal" is an excellent source of information. I remember a couple of years ago our budget analyst sent me an e-mail asking me to explain the budget line item for IMSA membership. What's the IMSA he asked? I started to send him back a lengthy explanation when I saw a copy of the *IMSA Journal* on my desk. I sent him that copy and the previous edition. A short time later I got a call from him saying that our membership dues were well worth the investment, and that just getting the *Journals* was probably worth the \$50.00.

Earlier I mentioned certification renewal. Any one who received a certification prior to December 31, 2004 will need to have gone through the certification renewal process by June 30th 2007. One of the ways a person can qualify to renew their certification is by obtaining a certain number of TARP points. TARP points can be obtained by attending technical seminars, or taking training classes that help you stay current in your field of expertise. This is where the education aspect of the IMSA comes into play.

Not long ago IMSA recognized the need to provide more training opportunities. A new committee called "Special Education" was added to the Certification Committee. Larry Parks and Len Mireau are co-chairing the committee. At the 2006 Annual



Norm Akin

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Conference in Overland Park the Special Education Committee requested "seed money" from the Board of Directors to retain a consultant to prepare a "strategic plan" addressing special education options. The plan would look at short and long term development of educational programs, and the distribution, funding and revenue mechanisms associated with the programs. Some ideas discussed were: an online library of PowerPoint courses that could be shared with sections, internet based training classes, and "Webinars" to present information on a larger scale.

A common theme expressed by a number of Directors and Committee members at this year's Annual Conference was the need for IMSA to update its strategic plan. The topic of providing more educational opportunities was just one issue that needed to be addressed. I decided to restart the Strategic Planning committee and asked Jan Siedler, who previously chaired the committee, to be the chairperson. I also asked Glen Bollinger to accept an appointment to chair the Business Plan committee.

By the time this article is published a joint meeting of the Strategic Planning committee and the Business Plan committee will have been held in Newark, New York. I asked for this special meeting to help us get a head start on developing new goals for IMSA's future, and to work on a strategic plan on how to accomplish them.

Hopefully, by the next issue we will have some good news to report. In the meantime, I wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year!



CERTIFICATION CORNER . . .

Continued from page 10

Q: How can I find out more about the FHWA Work Zone Program?

A: The FHWA Work Zone Mobility and Safety web site provides a vast amount of information about the FHWA Work Zone Program and work zone specific topics.

This site is available at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/workzones>.

I encourage you to familiarize yourselves with these rule changes. Also, mark your calendars for National Work Zone Awareness Week scheduled for April 2-8 of 2007.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!



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