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## About the Cover . . .

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello fellow IMSA members and associates. I hope the beginning of 2007 finds all of you safe and in good spirits.

One of the topics in this edition of the *IMSA Journal* is work zone safety. Work Zone Awareness Week will be held April 2-6, 2007. The intent of this special week is to inform and educate the public about traveling safely through work zones. A large number of our members work in the roadway on a regular basis, and the IMSA fully supports all efforts to improve their safety through increased public awareness. IMSA recognizes the importance of work zone safety. In fact, several of the IMSA's certification programs require the IMSA "Work Zone Traffic Control Safety" certification as a prerequisite.

In 2005, 1,074 people lost their lives in roadway work zone accidents. Almost twenty percent of those killed were the roadway workers themselves. Some of the most dangerous work environments in the world are found on our nation's roads and highways. Arizona, and a number of other states, have enacted laws that double, or significantly increase, the fines for traffic violations committed in a work zone.

Inattentive drivers have always been a hazard for those of us working in the roadway. However, with the proliferation of cell phone use, and now text messaging, this hazard has been compounded immensely. Personally, I'm all in favor of laws prohibiting the use of personal communication devices while driving.

Traffic workers can protect themselves and the public by being well trained in the use of proper traffic control, and by insuring they apply that training whenever they work in the roadway. However, the best traffic control in the world will not protect you from grossly negligent or impaired drivers. That's why we implore our employees to look out for each other, maintain a constant vigilance of the traffic around them, and always have an escape route in mind. My prayers are with each and every one of you that are required to work in the roadway while providing valuable public safety services.

On other matters, the IMSA Business Plan Committee and Strategic Planning Committee met in early November. Some very productive meetings were held in Newark, New York, home of our International office. Several action items were developed and moved toward implementation. Some of the significant items acted upon were:

- Proposed changes that will streamline and simplify the process for developing new certification programs or modifying existing ones.
- Established procedures to track the progress of work on new programs or revisions to programs. Also, established firmer deadlines for the review of consultant's work to shorten program development time.
- Suggested way to apply stricter business based decision making to the prioritization of funding for new programs.
- Directed IMSA President to work on strengthening partnerships with other organizations that have common interests with the IMSA.
- Moved to appoint a temporary ITS specialty chairperson to evaluate the feasibility and viability of creating ITS certification or training programs.
- Created an on-line library of training programs that members can access through the IMSA website. Also, send a request to members and the sustaining members asking if they have PowerPoint training or educational programs they would be willing to share with the membership.
- Created an RFP to hire a consultant to evaluate the feasibility of establishing on-line learning programs.



Norm Akin

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT . . .

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Since the meeting, some of the above items have come to fruition; others may take a while to accomplish.

There were several other topics discussed, but I'll save those for my next report. In the meantime, enjoy the upcoming spring weather, and if you have any questions or suggestions my contact information can be found in the front of the *Journal*.

Best regards, Norm Akin  
IMSA President



## The Safety Green T's and Sweatshirts Have Arrived!

They may be purchased from the International Office for the following prices  
(See page 76 for order form):

### Safety Green T's:

Large and X-Large \$ 8.50  
XX-Large \$10.50

### Safety Green Sweatshirts:

X-Large \$15.00  
XX-Large \$17.00

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