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## About the Cover . . .

Pictured on the Front Cover of this Journal are Newark Fire Fighters battling a fire. This photo was taken by Dick Colacino of Newark, New York. Dick is the Public Information Officer for the Newark Fire Department.

See more photos on page 20.

May/June 2007

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings fellow IMSA members and associates. I am pleased to report that the Association is doing very well this year, which will be nearly half over by the time you receive this Journal.

As I mentioned in an earlier article, the Executive Committee and our other IMSA committees have been working diligently to improve several of the services IMSA provides. The Business Plan and Strategic Management committees proposed that we retain a business/organizational specialist to "fully evaluate, analyze and make written recommendations on the organization, operation and services of the IMSA." An RFP was developed and sent to several firms. I should be able to report on the results of the RFP by the time the next Journal is published.



Norm Akin

About this time of year a lot of us are planning our trip to the IMSA's Annual Conference. If you have never had the chance to attend one of IMSA's conferences it is definitely something you should put on your "to do" list. The technical programs and vendor exhibits are always a great way to expand your knowledge and stay up to speed with the latest and greatest. However, my favorite part of the conference is the opportunity to meet interesting people from a wide variety of places. It is amazing how much we all have in common, and it seems like I can usually find someone who has experienced the same problems I have, but came up with a different and better solution.

Yes, I think networking and visiting with fellow members is a great part of the conference, but I also enjoy spending time in the exhibit hall talking to vendors and product representatives. There is always something new that can make our jobs easier or help us provide better service to the public, and the exhibit hall is a great place to find out about them.

Speaking of the exhibitors, I would like to say how much I appreciate our Sustaining Members section. This section includes all of the companies that support the IMSA. The Sustaining members provide a great resource for information and training on products we use to accomplish our jobs each day. They also represent companies that are constantly researching, and bringing to the market, new products that further improve the safety and efficiency of the services we provide. Please make an effort to visit our Sustaining members when you attend the conference, and pass along your own thanks for the wonderful effort they put forth in support of our Association.

In closing, I would like to ask each of you reading this article to think about how the IMSA could better serve you, or what things we might be able to improve on. Then take the time to e-mail me with your thoughts. We're always in the market for good ideas or good feedback, and we also like to hear from you about what we do that you like. My e-mail address can be found on page six of the *Journal*.

Until next time, I hope good fortune smiles upon all of you.

Norm Akin,  
President, IMSA

