

from the desk of



By
Marilyn
Lawrence

The economy seems to be not only the main focus of news reports but also what is affecting all of us in a personal way. Sometimes I wonder if the news media aren't just merely reporting, but actually contributing to our economic woes. Most of us are reevaluating our day to day spending as well as our long-term spending and making decisions regarding what is essential and non-essential. Although IMSA's membership numbers seem to be strong, we know that some members are either losing their jobs or are being asked to take on additional responsibilities.

The biggest problem I see today is trying to stay positive and focused when the future seems so uncertain. How do we stay positive? I learned a long time ago that I can only control so much and I should not be concerned with what I can't control. We must all recognize and use the resources that are available to us and thus, work smarter and in a positive way. Membership in IMSA is a valuable resource. Compared to other Associations, IMSA's membership dues are relatively inexpensive. If you or your employer is questioning the value of your membership, here are some reminders:

Stay Current – Be aware of the latest trends and technologies that help you to do your job better and protect the public.

Be Involved – Participate in your local section, network with your peers, find out what is happening in your area and receive valuable training.

Save Time – Put IMSA's 113 years of experience to work for you. Chances are that IMSA can help when you have a problem.

Professional Development – IMSA's training and certification programs in a variety of public safety technical fields make you a valuable resource to your employer and the agency you serve.

On-Line Access – In addition to the information you find on the IMSA Web site members have access to the Members Only area where they find a wealth of resources and also can ask questions and share experiences with thousands of other IMSA members who face the same challenges you do.

Member Discounts – Save money on training and certification programs, manuals, publications, clothing and more!

Representation at the Federal level – IMSA has representatives on a number of key councils and panels representing its members and making sure your voice is heard on a wide range of regulatory, code and standards issues.

IMSA Journal – The IMSA Journal is included with your membership and provides you with the latest news and information along with state-of-the-art articles on both technical and operational public safety activities.

International Level Committees and Task Forces – Serve on a committee or task Force at the International level and help shape the policies that affect you every day.

International Conference – Members receive a discount on registration fees for the annual International Conference. Certification Seminars, Training Seminars, Schools, Technical Sessions, Product Demonstrations, Vendor Display Area and organized activities are all part of the conference. You may bring your questions and problems to the Conference and receive valuable solutions, insights and recommendations.

If you haven't already done so, please make sure to complete the Annual Conference registration form that is included in this Journal.

Membership in IMSA is well worth the cost of the dues but more importantly, if you take advantage of all of the benefits, you will have access to a network that may save you time and help you to work smarter and leaner.

IMSA has a close relationship with many other associations. One of which is The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) that will hold its annual meeting in Chicago June 8-11 at McCormick Place. IMSA will be exhibiting at the meeting. Look for us in booth 168 on June 8th, 9th and 10th.

A feature presentation at the meeting will be a presentation by Dr. Shyam Sunder of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Dr. Sunder, Director of the Building and Fire Research Laboratory, was NIST's lead investigator for the World Trade Center disaster. He will discuss his report on the collapse of World Trade Center Tower 7. This presentation will describe the investigation process, and the analysis necessary, to determine the sequence of events that resulted in the collapse of the building.

Several NFPA documents will be presented for action at the Technical Meeting including NFPA 72, *The National Fire*

Alarm Code® and NFPA 1221, *Standard for the Installation, Maintenance, and Use of Emergency Services Communications Systems*. IMSA members participate in the development and update of these documents as members of the respective technical committees. Two IMSA members chair chapter technical committees of NFPA 72 and another IMSA member is a principal member of the Technical Coordinating Committee that oversees NFPA 72.

IMSA has a long history of working with, and supporting the efforts of, the NFPA. If you will be in Chicago for the meeting be sure to stop by the IMSA booth!



OBITUARIES

Guy H. Thiele Empire Section

Guy Thiele, a Signal Supervisor with the City of N. Tonawanda, NY passed February 5, 2009. Guy had been a member of IMSA since 1956.

Vincent M. Sheehan Florida Section

Vincent Sheehan of Palm Beach Gardens, FL and Hiawssee, GA, passed February 11, 2009. He was the Traffic Control Superintendent with Palm Beach County and the Florida Director for IMSA from 1997-2006. Vince had been a member since 1973.

Mahlon Fiske Southwest Section

Mahlon Fiske was a General Foreman with the City of Little Rock AK. Mahlon joined IMSA in 1995.