

ADVERTISER'S INDEX

Alinco Electric Sales.....	75
Alloy Castings.....	59
Alpha Technologies.....	21
ATSI-Athens Technical Specialist, Inc.....	17, 71
Business Card Advertisements.....	75
Carmanah Technologies.....	13
Classified Ads.....	74, 75
EDI - Eberle Design, Inc.....	5
Econolite.....	9
Encom Wireless Data Solutions.....	19
Engineered Castings, Inc.....	38, 39
General Traffic Equipment Corp.....	37
Gen-Tran.....	45
IMSA Florida Golf	45
IMSA Merchandise.....	57, 76
Image Sensing Systems Canada.....	25
Independent Metal Strap Co., Inc.....	47
Iteris, Inc.....	4
JSF Technologies.....	15
The Kelly Group.....	43
The Light Brigade.....	61
Lumecom.....	55
McCain.....	23
MS Sedco.....	57
O.M.J.C.....	53
Oscram Sylvania.....	63
Patriot Detection.....	35
Pelco.....	29
Power & Tel Company/Clifford of Vermont.....	40, 41
R. Hart Sales.....	33
Rainbow Distributors USA Inc.....	79
Reno A & E.....	2
Sensys Networks.....	31
SmarTek Systems, Inc.....	78
Solar Traffic Controls.....	51
Southern Manufacturing.....	65
Stamm Manufacturing.....	27
TEAA - Transportation Education Analysis & Assessment.....	75
Tesco Controls.....	3
Traficon USA.....	11
TW Cable, LLC.....	80
Wilcox Sales Company	49

About the Cover . . .

The front cover is courtesy of Alan MacRae a freelance photojournalist who's clients include newspaper, magazine, web and television media outlets in the United States and Scandinavia. He also serves as fire department photographer for the Belmont, Gilford, Laconia and Tilton-Northfield, New Hampshire fire departments and is an EMT-B / EMT-T.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As of February 27th, the Board has approved the proposed By-Laws resolution. By now, the Sections have begun to vote and judging by the current state of the global economy, not a moment too soon. The 2009 By-Laws provide the means to respond quickly to training needs within the public safety community. One of the greatest needs is to provide relevant training programs with superior content at an affordable price. This restructuring of the governance model, to a lean seven-member Board of Directors, is just one of the means to facilitate our mission statement:

"Dedicated to providing quality certification programs for the safe installation, operation and maintenance of public safety systems; delivering value for members by providing the latest information and education in the industry."



William Moroski

The 09 By-Laws include a Council of Delegates (COD) with a Delegate and Alternate Delegate from each Section electing four Members-at-Large to the Board of Directors. The responsibility of the COD is to determine the strategic direction of the Association. The Board of Director's primary duty is to budget and implement the strategic plan. Active, Public Agency and Life Members will elect the President Elect; a 3-year commitment. The following year, the President Elect ascends to President, then on to Past President. So in essence, the voting members elect three officers to the Board.

Other changes include simplifying the development and revision for current and future training material. The Board has the final responsibility for all decisions regarding training courses. Part III of the Governance Policy Manual (GPM) is the vehicle by which this process will occur efficiently. This document outlines procedures for market driven product development. The GPM includes; Part I - Notations from the By-Laws, Part II - Executive Director, Part III - Educational Advisory Council & Technical Advisory Council, Part IV - Association Section Handbook, Part V - Board Manual, Part VI - Committee/Representative Handbook. The GPM is a work in progress, which offers flexibility to change in an ever changing environment. [*"It is better by noble boldness to run the risk of being subject to half the evils we anticipate than to remain in cowardly listlessness for fear of what might happen."* Herodotus (485 - 425BC) - Greek Historian]

Part III of the GPM defines the Educational Advisory Council (EAC) and Technical Advisory Council (TAC). The EAC is basically a means to determine specific training needs that will benefit our membership. Participation will be topic specific and limited to defining the content of that need. Once the topic objectives are defined, a TAC will be organized to provide the technical details. At the completion of a project, the EAC and TAC are consulted for periodic course maintenance.

Another crucial objective to increasing efficiency is to establish a uniform format for all course media, including audio, visual and print. The uniform format should be suitable for in-house editing, as determined by the Specialty Chair, EAC and TAC Secretaries. As an example, Student Manuals, Moderator Guides and Certification Exams are printed on-demand at the IMSA office. Each printing can be easily edited or revised to reflect changes in standards. The audio and video media should also be in a format that is easily amendable.

Part IV of the GPM is the Association Section Handbook. It will contain the Section Alliance Agreement and minimum requirements of the Section Charter. Useful information, such as incorporation benefits, IRS form filing, insurance & bonding, leadership development, promoting membership and developing partnerships

Continued on page 12

PRESIDENT'S REPORT . . .

Continued from page 7

will also be included. Part IV will serve as a beneficial guide for Section officers much like the Part V Board Manual and Part VI Committee/Representative Handbook will assist Directors and Representatives defining their duties respectively.

Despite these challenging economic times, the future of IMSA is solid. The foundation of this historic Association is the selfless volunteers who labor tirelessly for the benefit of their fellow members. Dedicated volunteers have always been and will continue to be the backbone that drives the IMSA. May God bless each and every one of you!

I'd like to leave you with the following quotations:

"Let our advance worrying become advance thinking and planning." Winston Churchill

"When you worry, you go over the same ground endlessly and come out the same place you started. Thinking, on the other hand, makes progress from one place to another. The problem of life is to change worry into thinking, and anxiety into creative action." Harold B. Walker



Membership Dues Notice

The IMSA Membership application can be found on page 73 in this issue of the IMSA Journal.

Active and Associate Membership is \$70.00, Public Agency Membership is \$60.00, and Student Membership is \$35.00. See page 73 for definitions on the membership types.

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