Reflections

This is going to be different from the columns I usually write. I’m having difficulty because it is just before the conference BUT, the Journal will come out after the annual conference. I won’t be able to inform you what has happened as far as the Certification Committee business until the next issue.

I’ve been thinking of all the people that I have met in IMSA. I remember the patient guidance of the seasoned veterans from all sections; not only the New England section, but from the other vital sections I have had little chance to be intimately involved with. Even though my thoughts on various issues were different from other members’, I find it interesting that those members that have had a different perspective of the traditional goals discussed at our meetings are the ones that have made me think “outside the box”. In this issue I want to thank the members of IMSA that contribute by making sure that they don’t automatically go along with everything. Dissention is a part of creation.

I remember when Jan Siedler was President of IMSA. She started a lot of new ideas and had the Board, at the time, go through a lot of brainstorming sessions. A lot of fantastic ideas of where to take IMSA and what to focus on came out of her meetings. Jan is still one of the leaders that helps us try to focus on the issues and the problems. Her thoughts and knowledge has helped us formulate a lot of the procedures and has helped guide us with down to earth perspectives on what we are trying to accomplish.

I would also like to thank the Michigan section, but especially Bill Moroski. Bill is a long term member of IMSA that has served his section in many capacities, but more important, he has never been afraid to voice his or his section’s concerns of what they feel is best for IMSA. He was instrumental in getting the Michigan state programs that were needed to keep IMSA certification accepted in that state. Bill has always thought of his section, but has also tried to look at the International problems and tried to solve both.

Another member that I would like to focus on is Kent Green. I sat in on his Work Zone class in Spokane, WA, and have never run across a moderator with more enthusiasm or dedication than Kent. I wish all of the moderators that IMSA has would have the same dedication to IMSA and the knowledge in their field that Kent has.

Last but certainly not least, I would to dedicate this column to all the members of my (and your) Certification Specialty Committees. These IMSA members voluntarily serve on these committees because they believe in the basic principles of IMSA and know how important training, networking and certification is in today’s world. With all the friction in today’s world, it is refreshing to know that IMSA has a large group of professionals that donate their time and effort to improvement. They focus on how to help, train and educate all the people that are involved in the different disciplines covered by IMSA. I cannot say enough about these dedicated individuals and all the time that they give behind the scenes without looking for acknowledgement or recognition. They put their time in for both members and non-members. They are the people that make this organization what it is today.

Remember to check our web page at: www.imsasafety.org for the most up-to-date certification information. I’ll look forward to seeing you all at the 111th Annual Conference and 28th Annual IMSA School in Overland Park, Kansas.