

CORNER

ERTIFICATION

Meet Terry Thompson . . . We continue to wish Lenny Hulme well as he recovers.

By Terry Thompson, International Signs and Markings Committee Chairman

I just attended my first certification committee meeting as Chairman of the Signs and Markings Committee in Overland Park. As I expected, everyone greeted me with open arms and made me feel very comfortable. I regret that I had to leave right after the meeting to return home for work the next morning. I would have liked to have had more time to discuss several things with some of the people involved.

For those of you who don't know me, allow me to tell you a little about myself. I'm from Ardmore, Oklahoma, a beautiful community of about 28,000 people in southern Oklahoma. I have a great wife, Wanetta, who is a high school chemistry teacher at her alma mater. I have three children: Tara Harris, 24, who recently married and is attending college part time; another daughter, Keely, 14, who is a gymnast by heart and a great child; and a son, Brendan, 9, my great buddy with whom I talk to about signals and signs often.

My affiliation with IMSA began during my fifteen-year tenure with the City of Ardmore. I began working for the City reading water meters, and soon got the opportunity to move to the Traffic Department as the Signs and Marking Technician. I really enjoyed the job and quickly learned to respect the responsibility that it involved. During my time with the City of Ardmore, I moved from signs and markings to traffic signals, as you know, small towns must cross train to achieve their goals as needed. I was responsible for around 40 intersections and many signs. I next became Traffic Supervisor. We then merged with the Street Department and I was promoted to Field Supervisor for Streets, Building Maintenance, and Traffic.

I recently was a part of the sales team at Pinkley Sales Company. They are distributors for several major traffic signal products in Oklahoma and Arkansas. I am currently working weekends outside the field to make ends meet while I am establishing my own traffic signal maintenance company.

My first involvement with IMSA was at the Work Zone Traffic Control course held in Tulsa in 1991. I quickly began to value the organization; its periodicals and courses allowed me many opportunities to improve my knowledge and abilities. The many course and conferences I have attended have also allowed me to make acquaintances and form many friendships. In 1996, I was invited to run for the position of Third Vice President of the Southwestern Section; I went through the chairs and served as president during the 1999-2000 term. I was voted in as Director of the Southwestern

Section in 2004. Following my attendance at the Denver conference as Director, I had to step down because of a change in my membership status. Due to the size of our Section, we have State Directors; which serve as liaisons for communications to the Southwestern Section Executive Committee. I was appointed as Oklahoma State Director in 2005. My time in sales allowed me to promote IMSA and allowed me to become known all over Oklahoma.

I received my initial certification during the Tulsa Conference in WZTC. Mr. Doug Cantrell and Mr. Warren Farrell moderated. If you know Doug, you will understand how much motivational knowledge was available to me. I took every chance to chat with him, looking for more insight. At the same school, Doug Cantrell moderated Signs and Markings I with the same great enthusiasm. He motivated me to move forward, so I challenged Level II the same day, fortunately, I passed both classes.

My next seminar to attend was Level I Traffic Signals. It was a great introduction for my new crossover position. Level II came soon after. I then challenged Level III Signs and Markings, and failed. So I studied and passed the next time. I have also attended the IMSA Traffic Signal Maintenance course, Traffic Signal Troubleshooting course, and the Roadway Lighting course. I was in the first Traffic Signal Inspector course, in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. I also completed the Texas A&M Cabinet Troubleshooting Course and received 14 credit hours, it was a great course with type I and II cabinets.

During the time I was going through the chairs I began moderating WZTC and Signs and Markings. I have continued to do WZTC and have moderated for most of those people in our section that have taken the course in recent years. I have also moderated several other courses including Traffic Signals, and Traffic Signal Inspector. I enjoy moderating because it allows me to meet the many members of our organization.

My first passion was Signs and Markings, so when Mr. Bothwell asked me to come on Board the Signs and Markings Committee, I jumped at the chance. I have seen the need for attention in some of the material and content, but I really didn't know how to address it. I now know. Here is the chance to make a difference and try to build enthusiasm with every student that we have in class. There are some small type-o's and a few chapters that need attention. I am going to be looking for volunteers to help review material. I will also be asking for ideas on additional materials, which are not addressed at this time. If you have knowledge or interest in fabrication, the new reflectivity standards, or paint or thermoplastic standards and procedures please contact me, Greg Bothwell, Lenny Hulme, or Sharon Earl at the International office. The more

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In closing I would like to say that the IMSA is in excellent health both financially and organizationally. Prior leadership has set the association on a course to success. We have become an Association with 10,000 members, much improved certification programs, and a course monitoring system to keep them up to date. We have strong partnerships with other organizations and are well represented to the FHWA. Some of our current goals are to strengthen Strategic Management and plan for the future, look for ways to bring education and training to our members through on-line resources, and create a shared library of training material.

Until next time stay safe and take care.

Norm Akin



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people that are involved, the stronger we will be. The members will make the difference, and I will do everything to address any concerns you have. If you're moderating a class and find a problem, please write it down and forward it to the Director of Education to send to the committee. WE WILL FIX IT!

We have recently reached a new agreement with a consultant to review some of our material. This agreement seems to have everything we need in place and seems very promising. So let's get things going and see.

I am very proud to be on board with this fine organization as representative of the Southwestern Section. I look forward to the opportunity to work with Greg, Lenny, and Sharon (our Director of Education). I would like to make this world a safer place for my children and yours. I want to make a difference. I hope you will help me. Thanks again for the opportunity to serve you!

Terry Thompson



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