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About the Cover . . .

The conference photos contained in this Journal were taken by Mike and Marie Colacino. Our conference attendees commented it was great to have them back!



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It never fails. For all the anticipation, preparation and time investment that is dedicated to producing an IMSA Annual Conference, the event seems to be over in a moment and those of us that were fortunate enough to share in the experience are returning home to pick up where we left off the week before. It all appears easy and effortless, especially when one just has to show up and participate in the scheduled events, but it doesn't take much of an imagination to realize the organization and coordination that must take place in order for an event of this magnitude to run seamlessly.

Host and Hostess Frank and Denise Van Pelt and their band of volunteers from the Florida section, led by Section President Tyson Evatz, orchestrated this years offering with perceived ease. This in itself is quite an accomplishment being that they effectively raised the bar as far as expectations of an annual conference are concerned. The Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate was in beautiful form and the staff always friendly and accommodating. As well, the property boasted many opportunities to network after a busy day of meetings, technical sessions and certification courses, or just a chance to unwind... as in a gentle float down the lazy river. And we can't forget Marilyn and her staff who worked tirelessly, as usual, and complimented perfectly the efforts of the host Florida section and resort staff to produce a conference experience not soon to be forgotten.

As much as the 114th Annual Conference has wrapped up, plans are already in motion for the 115th version to be hosted by Tracy and Quinn Nichols and the Southwestern Section. They know they have their work cut out for them but assured me that they are up to the challenge and promised an event not to be missed in Texas 2010.

This year's conference marked milestones in a number of areas. Primarily, this was the transition year between the old Board of Directors and the new Council of Delegates as per the new By-Laws that were approved by the IMSA Sections in June. One of the last acts of the old Board was to adopt the Governance Policy Manual, a product of almost two years work by the Governance Task Force, with input from the Section Alliance Task Force, the Committee and Representatives Task Force and the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. This document is a living resource outlining the function of IMSA as an Association. Having these documents appear in a manual form means that changes can be made and the content kept current without tearing open the formal By-Laws.

The remaining piece of the governance puzzle is the Section Charter Agreement which was presented to the Section Secretaries at their annual meeting in Orlando. This is predominately a finished document created by the Section Alliance Task Force with guidance from Steve Ingram of Sightline Solutions and Lisa Hix of VENABLE LLP. Following a quick review by the secretaries, expectations are that the Agreement will be officially sent out to be signed by the individual Sections and returned to the International office by the end of this year.

Lastly, as the incoming President of IMSA, I need to thank the Nominating Committee for their confidence and the Council of Delegates for accepting the committee's recommendation that I be allowed to serve the IMSA in this capacity. I also need to thank Bill Moroski, now Past President, for the leadership he demonstrated last year and for his commitment to seeing the IMSA through these times of change.

I am truly humbled by the long list of IMSA Past Presidents and Chairmen of the Board that have preceded me. I readily accept the challenge and the expectations of the position and it will be my honor to serve as the Association President over the next year.



Craig MacKenzie