PRESIDENT’S REPORT

I hope this issue of the Journal arrives with your vacation plans settled, the suitcases packed, and everyone ready to head down to beautiful St. Pete Beach for our 110th International Conference and 28th annual school. The Florida section and your International Staff have been working hard to make sure that you have a great time during the conference. We’re planning on lots of sunshine and gentle breezes (not hurricanes!) during your stay. Just be sure that you don’t forget to take the necessary precautions against sunburn while you’re out enjoying the beach or one of the pools! If we can be of any help or assistance concerning the conference, or with your additional vacation plans, please contact me or anyone else from the Florida section at your earliest convenience.

This year’s certification schools will include a Signs and Markings Level I program that has been updated to address impacts from the 2003 MUTCD rewrite since the last conference. (The update to the Signs & Markings Level II is also nearing completion and should be completed by the conference.) Hat’s off to Lenny Hulme, Signs and Markings Specialty Chair, for seeing these projects through to completion. Approval has also been obtained from the IMSA Educational Foundation for the creation of a new Roadway Lighting Level II program to provide additional certification advancement in the roadway lighting arena. Finally, since summertime is a busy highway construction time it is also a good time to emphasize our work zone certification program. FHWA statistics show that in 2003, 1,028 fatalities resulted from motor vehicle crashes in work zones, growing from 693 in 1997 (a 48 percent increase). More than 41,000 people were injured in 2003 as a result of motor vehicle crashes in work zones. This has grown from 36,000 in 1996, an increase of 14 percent. Providing your employees IMSA Work Zone certification confirms your commitment to work zone safety.

Did you notice or participate in one of the press events recently held around the country announcing the results of the National Traffic Signal Report Card (spearheaded by the Federal Highway Administration)? With the national average score being a D-, a lot of support was given to the argument that more funds need to be applied to traffic signal systems so that real and meaningful improvements can be realized on a national scale. For additional information, go to http://www.ite.org/reportcard/NTS_ExecSummary.pdf.

In closing, it has been an honor to serve as your IMSA President this past year. As we close in on the annual conference and the end of my term, it amazes me at how quickly the time has passed. I want to thank all of the hard working volunteers in the sections and the various International committees that have made serving as president of this great organization such a pleasure. To the International staff (that does all of the work behind the scenes), you’re the best! I look forward to continuing to serve IMSA from a different capacity in the future.