



# President's Message

*International System Safety Society President  
Russ Mitchell*

## Find Your Way

While, at this writing, I will be serving as your president for several more months, due to the frequency and publication process this will be my last message in JSS as president. By way of confession, I am always late to the publisher with my content, but this article in particular has been hard to write. I want you to know it has been a pleasure to serve you and the industry. I wish I had been able to get more done (sometimes I don't get as much done as I probably should). So, I suppose this letter is an apology that I wasn't more effective, a "thank you" for allowing me to continue to serve you, and a recognition for the growth we have made in the last couple of years. We, the ISSS, have changed on a number of fronts within the last two years.

- We have changed the way we operate by implementing an association management company to help us with the back office and guide some of our processes.
- We've moved our conference to an online event while COVID issues still dominate the conditions for gatherings.
- We've created a members-only web space to enhance our capacity to support member activities.
- We've launched our webinar process.
- We've retooled the budgeting process.
- We've launched a monthly newsletter.
- We've brought the Journal into an online solution.

I don't take personal credit for these things — the Executive Council, staff and committee volunteers have risen to these challenges and delivered. To keep these projects vital, we will all need to help.

Elections are upon us, and your participation in the nomination process, in sharing your own vision for the society and in stepping up and casting your vote keeps the society healthy. Read up, reach out and step up to vote so that we can continue to make progress on these and other important fronts, where the work of your society matters.

One place the society matters is in the influence of standards and practices. Recently we participated in

review and comments on the initial draft of MIL-STD-882F. We gathered well over 400 comments and held a half-day review event to assess those comments deemed to be of high importance. The comments were delivered to the authoring group with recommendations and a request to become further involved in the review and edit process. We will see how that goes. The review itself made it clear that our society has a lot to say about how system safety is done and should be voicing those ideas through its own set of publications. This fits tightly with our current initiatives that we continue to slowly evolve.

I want to yet again ask you to get involved. I've been writing a newsletter section called "Tips and Tricks" and for some reason, I am beginning to feel like some tips are less tricky and feel less inclined to write about these. I suspect if you would jot down a note to me about something you feel is important in your own system safety practice, it might spur me on to write about it or invite you to discuss it in detail so that we can extract a "Tips and Tricks" article from the ideas you send in. You are, of course, always welcome to write the tips and tricks up in a final editable format for our edit staff to clean up and put into our newsletter.

Again, it has been a joy and honor to serve you. I hope to continue to find ways to be engaged and eventually find other ways to serve the ISSS and the Executive Council. The society volunteers inspire and continually challenge me to find better ways to do system safety and help progress our profession.

Finally, I recommend, for your practice, for your career enhancement, and for the betterment of the profession of system safety, that you find within you, a way to engage in the society efforts: volunteer, become active in your local chapter, participate in our conference, write for the Journal or newsletter, participate in developing webinars, share the society with your colleagues, or find the way that makes a difference — your difference. Because, it just matters.

Best Always,  
Russ