

by Rex B. Gordon  
ISSS Historian

### Pathfinders of System Safety

One of the traditional functions of a professional organization such as ours is to provide due recognition and honor to those who have made a significant contribution to the goals of the organization. The International System Safety Society (ISSS) has pursued this practice for many years, with various specified annual awards defined in our operating manual (OM). At the Society's Executive Council (EC) meeting on August 28, 2015, a new honorary award was approved: System Safety Pathfinder.

While previous awards have primarily noted the special achievements and contributions of members during a given Society year, this new honor is for those members who initiated some previously unchartered paths of system safety activity — which, with the benefit of historical perspective, have proven to be of significant benefit to the implementation of the system safety concept. This honor may be bestowed, upon vote of the EC, on any current or past member of the Society, living or deceased, who is deemed to have met this criterion. Six Pathfinders have been approved by the EC, and the revised OM provides that additional nominations for this honor may be submitted for EC vote considerations (with a limit of two awards approved per year). The EC has also voiced its desire to ensure that international members are properly considered for future Pathfinder award consideration.

The EC approved an initial list of System Safety Pathfinders:

- C. O. Miller, for documenting the basic doctrines of the system safety concept.
- Niel Classon, for defining and implementing initial system safety program plans
- George Ruff, for drafting and obtaining release of the initial system safety engineering contractual exhibit
- Roger Lockwood, for founding the System Safety Society (now the International System Safety Society)
- George Peters, for creating and serving as the initial editor of *Hazard Prevention* (now *Journal of System Safety*)



*Rex Gordon, right, presents Roger Lockwood with a certificate honoring him as a "Pathfinder of System Safety" for his efforts in founding the ISSS. Lockwood, who turned 91 recently and lives in an assisted living environment in Hermosa Beach, California, still has the desire to be active in Society matters. He can be contacted through his conservator, Suzanne, by email at [suzanne@trustee.pro](mailto:suzanne@trustee.pro), or by phone at 310-792-8838.*

- Rex Gordon for initiating the policy for designating professional-level member grades

All ISSS members are urged to give thought to nominating candidates who they feel meet the above-noted criteria for designation as a *System Safety Pathfinder*. An explanation of why a candidate should be considered for this honor must be included with any nomination. System safety pioneers in non-aerospace related activities, education and from areas outside the United States are especially welcome candidates.

Submit candidate nominations to [pathfinder@system-safety.org](mailto:pathfinder@system-safety.org) to become included in the review process. ●