



President's Message

*International System Safety Society President
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The Way Forward

This is my first article in *Journal of System Safety (JSS)* where I have the honor of serving as President of the International System Safety Society (ISSS). There is a lot going on, and I look forward to outlining some of these items in more detail after our Executive Council (EC) meeting at the International System Safety Society Conference (ISSC) this August in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

There has been a good deal of discussion about the need for paradigm shifts in the last several issues of *JSS*. I am instituting a fairly fundamental paradigm shift in the way the EC conducts business. At the annual EC meeting, it has been the tradition to focus on matters that require an EC decision. Discussion of other matters was discouraged. I am going to allow — and actually *encourage* — discussion of important matters that will not need an immediate EC decision. Of course, these discussion topics will have to be approved and placed on the agenda with a time limit. The output of these discussions will be a better identification of strategic issues and the beginnings of solutions that will be transformed eventually into motions for EC votes.

The justification for this change is related to some additional changes. I will institute monthly EC meetings using the *Join.me* online meeting tool (the purchase of which was authorized by Past President Dr. Rod Simmons). In addition, I will encourage most of our voting to be done on the electronic voting system that we have had for several years. This method will give EC members more time to digest and understand the intricacies of motions before they vote.

There are several important strategic initiatives underway that will be discussed at the EC. Some of these include changes to the annual Conference, revenue streams and chapter interfaces.

There are difficulties with the current Conference methodology. Conference teams are working extremely hard for limited returns, and there is some evidence of “burnout” for sponsoring chapters. Chapters and members are no longer volunteering

to sponsor and/or support the Conference. One option being considered is for the EC to assume the planning, management and operational control of the ISSC.

The financial health of the ISSS requires careful control of expenditures, as well as identifying ways to increase revenue. The EC will consider several aspects of the revenue stream, including memberships (both individual and corporate), alignments with entities such as Arizona State University, and industry-funded projects.

Many discussions over the last few years have indicated that the chapter and Society financial and administrative interfaces could use some improvement. Rex Gordon, our Society historian, is leading an effort to come up with solutions to these and other issues. Rex is a valuable resource on such matters because he is able to consider the original assumptions underlying why some things are done the way they are — and whether these assumptions still hold true today.

Best wishes,
Chuck

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