President's Message
by Warren Naylor

As my term winds down, I wanted to take this last opportunity to thank all of the members of the International System Safety Society for allowing me to serve you. Serving a professional of any discipline is an honor; however, serving system safety professionals, in my humble opinion, trumps all others. We are mostly kindred spirits who perform the noblest of professions for limited financial gain and often without recognition or appreciation. Often, our impact goes unmeasured and unnoticed as we enhance the safety of our programs, user communities and, ultimately, the public at large. No sane person could survive as a system safety engineer for extended periods unless he or she was truly driven by a higher calling.

You also blessed me by voting in an extremely competent and committed Executive Council (EC). They have served you well, and deserve all the credit for the past two years of accomplishments. If you will remember, we took office in the throes of an economic crisis that not only affected the ISSS, but all other societies as well. We painfully implemented a dues increase and a balanced budget. I'm pleased to report that our finances have returned to a rather healthy state. I largely recognize Stacy Medina-Durham for her stewardship as Treasurer in nursing us back to health! Also, remember that the majority of the EC is filled with your local chapter presidents, and I can honestly say that you have been well represented.

Another initiative we undertook was the globalization of the System Safety Society, which we now recognize as the International System Safety Society. During the past two years, our measurable accomplishments have included:

- Entering into a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) in the U.K.
- Starting a Chapter in Australia
- Starting a Chapter in Israel
- Approving an Asian Regional Conference for 2012 in Australia

I give all credit for these accomplishments to Jerry Banister and Robert Fletcher, who have spent hours upon hours of volunteer time assisting our membership. Jerry Banister and Gary Braman also need to be recognized for the work they did with all of our chapters to maintain their respective health and well-being.

We are also negotiating a cooperative agreement with the International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE) that may eventually lead to a certification for system safety professionals. I sincerely hope to have a signed Memorandum of Agreement before leaving office on June 30.

I would also like to recognize Clif Ericson, who just keeps giving and giving. He has probably filled every position within the ISSS and is currently the editor of Journal of System Safety. JSS is what makes us a viable Society! Clif has made substantive improvements during the past two years, and I believe you will all agree we have a world-class journal.

I would also like to recognize Cathy Carter and her volunteer assistant, Clarence Carter, who are the very foundation of the ISSS family and who are the ones who answer your phone calls, handle all mailings, maintain interfaces with our business partners, and handle registrations, complaints and more.
Finally, I would like to thank the unseen and unheard contributors known as our spouses, families and our employers. Remember, serving the ISSS is an unpaid privilege; we all have jobs, and our ISSS activities are largely done at night and on weekends, which takes time away from our families. Thank you, families, spouses and companies, for your support and understanding.

Thank you all,

— Warren Naylor
President
System Safety Society