President's Message

by Warren Naylor

I would like to start by thanking the Huntsville ISSC team, led by Rhonda Barnes, for producing an extremely successful Conference. The technical program was exceptional and the off-site events were superb — especially the space camp for kids and the Jack Daniel's tour for the adults! The final accounting is almost finished and it is now safe to say that the Huntsville Conference produced record returns. As a result, we will be reassessing our short-term budget needs, while keeping our focus on the future of the Society.

I would like to use this column to keep you informed of Executive Council (EC) activities throughout the year. In the first quarter of our term, the EC has been working diligently on the following activities:

- The EC has approved a request by the Washington DC Chapter to hold its second Training Symposium in March, 2010. There is concern that the training symposium could negatively impact ISSC attendance. It was agreed that a survey will be developed and distributed to determine whether attendance at the symposium would impact one's attendance at the following ISSC. Additionally, attendance at the ISSC will be monitored to see how many people attend both events.

- During the 26th ISSC, Mike Allocco's motion for developing an International Director position was adopted by the membership during the general meeting. The position was developed; however, the position has not been posted due to the unbudgeted travel costs. Gary Braman and Bob Fletcher have submitted a motion that is now under discussion to remove the requirement for trips that were economically untenable.

- Mike Allocco has been asked to write a paper on developing safe systems in an open architecture environment. This would be posted on the Society's Web site for all to read and comment on. I hope this is just the first of many, as I want to get all of our Fellows to take on these types of leadership tasks and attack the issues we are facing today.

- There has been some discussion regarding membership in the Society. The application for membership currently requires that an individual provide proof of system safety experience on the membership form. The proof required, and the difficulty in completing it, has prevented qualified professionals from joining the Society as full members. Achieving full membership includes the ability to run for office locally and internationally and, even more fundamentally, to vote in the general elections. I spoke with David Sadler at a recent certification board appearance, where he said he has been an affiliate member for the past six years because "he does not have the time to fill out the paperwork." Dave presents each year at the ISSC, yet he is not a full member. I also met a military helicopter pilot at this year's ISSC who told me he would love to join but did not meet the criteria of membership. True, he does not practice system safety on a daily basis, but is it not our duty to train people like him? Why are we excluding those who need our help? I'm asking for all those with a strong opinion on this matter to let me know. I want to make the correct decision if I pursue a change. I will write up an argument for both sides of the debate and submit it to the EC for a formal discussion and possibly a resultant motion. I would like to include your input as well.

- The budget for 2010 as presented at this year's general meeting was formally approved by the EC.

If you have comments on any of the topics raised here, I would love to hear from you. My email address is Naylor_w@comcast.net As your President, I'm here to serve your needs. Please communicate!
Finally, I would like to encourage all Society members to consider devoting some time to the organization. Whether as an elected official or as a volunteer working on future Society conferences, committees and products, there is a place for all to contribute. I believe you will find your time to be well spent and extremely gratifying. Election nominations will be sought next year at this time and I would like to see multiple and diversified candidates for every elected position. Start thinking about it now, as it is a rewarding experience to make a difference!

— Warren Naylor
President
System Safety Society