Elections and Transitions

It's that time of year again — time for elections. However, I am not referring to the recent national, state and local elections. I am referring to our International System Safety Society elections. The first step in our Society election process is to nominate a slate of officers for the next term. Read the President's Message for additional information on the nomination process.

It is with sadness that I announce the retirement of Ludwig Benner and Ira Rimson as regular contributing authors in JSS. Ira and Ludi have been writing the "Outside the Lines" column for quite a few years and are long-time members of the ISSS. They have made considerable contributions to both system safety and to JSS. I would like to personally thank them for everything they have done.

The first technical paper in this issue, "ESOH Considerations in the Selection of Alternative Energy Sources" by Adam Gambriell, presents the various safety implications of alternative energy sources, such as wind, solar and biofuels. While these alternative energy sources may seem benign in comparison to nuclear power, their effects on safety and the environment should be thoroughly explored for hazards and hazard risk.

The second technical paper in this issue, "Common Statements...Trouncing Safety" by Mike Allocco, is an interesting look at statements commonly heard within industry that show a lack of understanding of system safety. He specifically identifies 60 misconceptions, and presents a valid view on these topics. It's worth reading this paper to determine if one of these items is on your hot list, and if you agree with Mike.

In his "System Safety in Healthcare" column, Dev Raheja discusses the hazards of patient-controlled pain medication pumps. There are serious safety issues involved with these devices, and with patients controlling their amount of medication, which Dev discusses in this article.

In his "Unintended Consequences" column, Terry Hardy discusses a communication breakdown that occurred, causing the crash of Avianca Airlines flight 52 while it attempted to land at John F. Kennedy International Airport. This mishap occurred on January 25, 1990. The NTSB determined that the probable cause of the accident was the failure of the flight crew to manage the airplane's fuel load; however, communications and standard terminology were also major factors.

In his "Design-Based Safety" column, Dave MacCollum discusses how leadership in a design-based safety process brings order out of chaos. He also provides seven leadership skills that can be employed to enhance the safety process.

Remember, if you wish to opine, send me an email at journal@system-safety.org.

Until next time,
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