

# President's Page

J.H. Harless

Judy Springer  
President-elect  
NSPI

Dear Judy,

I certainly look forward to your speaking in the *President's Page* space starting the next issue of the *Journal*. I will then have on the comfortable robes of hindsight. I think we'll both do splendidly.

Traditionally, the last *President's Page* is devoted to a review of the year's accomplishments. A review is supposed to be neutral. I can't find the objectivity to be neutral and the urge to hindsight hasn't set in. So, I think I'll sum up by giving you a biased report.

This NSPI year didn't go quite like I had it in my head at the start. What ever does? But this year's Board did set its aims high. Given an excellent base and legacy from Phil Tiemann and his cabinet, the Board tacked up some goals for itself. At this writing, some of the data from some of the goals isn't in, but I'll take the risk of reporting on them anyway.

**Goal:** To improve the content, appearance, and size of the *Journal*.

Thiagarajan and his legion produced contents of the *Journal* that were meaty and delightful. Leanore and Ivan Horabin can take credit for the appearance and timeliness of the issues. The Thiagarajan-Horabin team effort was super.

**Goal:** To put out a *Membership Directory*.

Secretary Carol Beeman brought off a Cadillac publication on a Honda budget.

**Goal:** To catch up on the behind-schedule *Quarterly*.

Under the leadership of Jerry Short, we nearly doubled the number of issues this year. Again, thanks should go to Leanore and Phil Tiemann for doing double work.

**Goal:** To increase the number of subscribers and sustaining members.

Both occurred.

**Goal:** To publicize the existence of NSPI with the potential of increasing membership.

So did that.

**Goal:** To hold the line on dues and Conference fees.

And that.

**Goal:** To assist in formation of new chapters.

Under your direction, Judy, these new chapters have either been formed or are in the process: Health Sciences, Potomac, Montreal, New England, San Antonio, Raleigh, and Seattle.

**Goal:** To increase the services of the National Office and to run National affairs in a business-like way.

Treasurer Kathryn Keeler and the National Office have produced a standard by which all future years will be measured.

**Goal:** To hold a successful National Conference.

Although the Conference in Chicago has not yet been held, I feel no hesitancy in predicting achievement of this goal. Vice President Harold Rahmlow has put together a masterful program. Phil Tiemann, Eileen Spector, Sally Droege and the Chicago Chapter are handling local arrangements with admirable skill.

I want to tell you, Judy, reflecting further on the year, my most pleasant surprise was the dedication of volunteers. (Only help for the National Office is paid, remember). I cannot possibly list all the members who took the time to write with suggestions and offers of time to help. Judi Fernandez and her Nominations Committee did their work fully three months ahead of the traditional time. Claude Lineberry and the Awards Committee's work will be apparent at the Conference. Former President Bob Mager kept up a steady stream of correspondence with invaluable information and suggestions about National affairs. Former President

Donald Bullock was a rich source of logic and ideas. Former President Harry Shoemaker cheerfully responded with sound advice the numerous times I bugged him. Former Presidents Geary Rummler and Susan Markle continued to give their time to Society events. Past President Phil Tiemann, in spite of having given three years previously to the Society, worked at least as many hours as you and I did this year.

Judy, in addition to the Old Guard, I was impressed at the number of new names on articles, letters, and at the other end of phone calls about the Society. I think you're going to have the dual advantage of loyalty from old timers and the freshness of the newcomer. Count on me to join the former.

The most unpleasant surprise I had this year was how much time it takes to deal with the nitty-gritty of the Society's business, including wrestling with the Post Office, lawyers, and printers. I look now and the time is gone. What ever happened to those lofty promises to ourselves about a tough, efficient organization that practices what it preaches? What ever happened to our solemn promise to be of genuine help to local chapters? To get out a book of readings for newcomers? To define our purposes in precise terms? To have some fun? Win some, lose some.

Have a good year,  
Joe

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