
President's Page

Joe Harless

I have some good news and some bad.

Good news:

The Atlanta Conference renewed the NSPI coffers sufficiently to operate another year, and to fund some badly needed projects. This was also aided by Phil Tiemann's National Board and the excellent committees paying expenses out of their own (or their organization's) pocket.

Bad news:

Most of the funds in the treasury will be spent by the end of the year. (i.e., by '77 National Conference)

Good news:

By January, 1977, the *Quarterly* will be up-to-date. That is, the membership will have received two years' worth of that publication in one year.

Bad news:

Printing, paper, and mailing costs are up—so the cost-per-issue is higher.

Good news:

The National Board has pledged *not* to raise membership dues or the registration fee for the National Conference.

Bad news:

The Annual Conference is a major source of revenue for operating the Society and funding new projects. Thus, the Chicago Conference must be successful for the Society to increase its services to members.

Good news:

Advance indications are that the Chicago NSPI Conference (April 13-16) may generate the largest attendance in recent years. One of the strongest indications came from a survey I sent to each of you a couple of months ago. The item on the questionnaire relevant to this issue:

Q: "What is the likelihood that you'll attend the Annual Conference in Chicago?"

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| • Likely to attend: | 145 |
| • Unlikely: | 36 |
| • Too early to consider: | 43 |

Bad news:

I received only a 25% return on a questionnaire that asked a membership of about 1,000 some questions extremely important to the Society.

Good news:

The 225 who did respond provided excellent and detailed input to the National Board on such diverse topics as:

- Should we index, package and offer for sale all back issues of the *Journal*?
- Who should be on the ballot for next year's National Board?
- To whom should we send information on NSPI in hopes of recruiting them?
- Which libraries should be asked to subscribe to our publications?

Bad news:

The survey revealed that an insufficient number of members would purchase any option concerning indexing and packaging of the *Journal*. So, the project, as far as I'm concerned, is dead.

Good news:

The seed money temporarily allocated for that project is now available for other projects, such as expanding the size and scope of the *Journal*, more activities at the Conference, more support for local chapters, *Membership Directory*, and other new NSPI publications.

Bad news:

There will still be insufficient funds to do all the things we want to do without jeopardizing the existence of the Society—unless we get a dramatic input of new members and/or raise the dues and/or raise the Conference fees and/or get a very large attendance at the National Conference in Chicago in April.

Which puts me back where this report to you started.

Good news:

That's all the bad news I have. The rest is positive:

- I've visited the site of the April Conference, the Hyatt (Downtown Chicago). It is an excellent place for our meeting. Phil Tiemann has been able to negotiate a very favorable room rate, large meeting rooms, and some unexpected freebies.
- Harold Rahmlow's Conference program is already beginning to take form, and the form is pleasing. In addition to the NSPI mainstays such as Cracker Barrels, Newcomer's Sessions, Harold and the

Program Committee are shaking the bushes for the most "topical topics" and personalities in our field. (See the "Call for Presentations" in the September issue.)

- You'll have an opportunity to vote on the '77/78 National Board several months early this year. In fact, you may have received your ballot and biographies of the candidates already. (Thanks to the quick, professional work of Judi Fernandez and her Committees.)
- The percent turnover in membership (non-renewals vs new members) is the lowest in recent years.
- And, you've gotta admit that the *Journal* under the auspices of Thiagi and Leanne Horabin is improving mightily every issue.

Comments relevant to the President's Page should be sent to Suite 202, 1 Tyson's Office Center, McLean, Virginia 22101.

Membership News

Department Editor:
Mary A. Durland

What's New In Training?

When asked this question, RON ROCZROWSKI described a recently completed project for the St. Johnsbury Trucking Company of Cambridge, Mass. RON, a free-lance training consultant and NSPI member, feels that training humans in how to effectively interface with machines will be a major thrust of training in the future. With the rapid expansion of the trucking business, St. Johnsbury wanted to replace on-the-job training for their billers with self-instructional training. RON designed an audiotape/workbook package that can be either self-administered or supervisor administered. The materials train billers to transfer information from bills of lading to an on-line computer, which generates the necessary routing information for the truck drivers.

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