

Welcome once again to this month's issue of the ISSA Journal.

I would like to start with a welcome to the recently seated ISSA Board as the "new" board year has just started.

I have just returned from our annual ISSA General Membership meeting in San Francisco, California. I greatly appreciate the about 50 members in attendance and thank them for their continued support of ISSA and look forward to seeing them, as well as others, at the general membership meeting next year.

I'd first like to thank outgoing board members Robert Daniels, Executive Vice President; Ron Helsley, Secretary/Director of Operations; and Directors Greg Nelson and Stephen Scharf for serving our organization with their time, talent and commitment. It has been an honor and pleasure working with them this past year (and some for a number of years) and I look forward to their continued contribution to ISSA.

I would ask everyone to join me in welcoming our newly elected board members Kevin Richards, Vice President (returning board member); Dave Cullinane, CFO*; Vern Williams, Secretary/Director of Operations; and Directors Bill Danigelis, Pamela Fusco, Brian Schultz and Ernie Zernial (returning board member). At our first board meeting we had a quick welcome and brief board orientation and then jumped right into looking at how we can better serve the membership. One of the first orders of business is to plan a strategic planning session in the near future and we are looking to chapter officers for feedback on some of the initiatives that have been addressed for the upcoming session. Stay tuned for communications from our full-time staff as our strategies unfold.

One of the recurring highlights of the annual meeting was congratulating this year's award winners:

ISSA Communication Program of the Year: **Capitol of Texas Chapter**

Security Professional of the Year: **Sherry R. Voit** (NOVA Chapter)

Organization of the Year: **Nortel Government Solutions**

ISSA Chapter of the Year: **ISSA UK Chapter**

Hall of Fame: **William Tompkins**

It was my pleasure to present these awards and shake the hands of those exceptional, dedicated volunteers who were there to receive their awards. We recognize the efforts of these individuals who do so much to help make ISSA successful.

This year I elected to give two very special Presidential Awards to recognize members who have not only contributed much over the years to our profession itself, but also to ISSA specifically. One goes to retiring board member Bob Daniels who has served ISSA and has been on the board for many years. We will miss his presence and sage wisdom on the board. The second Presidential Award goes to Kevin Richards, who has also been on the board and recently elected to Vice President. Hearty congratulations and many thanks to both for their long-term contributions.

We also held of chapter officers meeting. I am continually pleased with the passion and dedication of the chapter officers – over 60 people were in attendance (both phone and in person), representing about 38 chapters internationally. There were many great success stories of chapters teaming up for regional conferences, as well as working closely with other organizations such as (ISC)², ISACA, ASIS International, and Infragard. It was great hearing from the chapters, and I look forward to speaking and meeting with more as the year progresses.

On a different note, October is Cybersecurity Awareness month here in the U.S. A lot of activities are planned around the country for this and I would ask each chapter to do some outreach to other local organizations – block watch programs, chambers of commerce, various local clubs and service organizations – and encourage members to help support this national effort. There are a number of ways to increase awareness; one easy way is to invite parent-teacher groups and local chamber members to your meetings and design an "end user" friendly agenda – help our communities get secure with Cybersecurity awareness.

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Sincerely
 Howard A. Schmidt
 ISSA International President

* While Dave Cullinane was elected to the CFO position during this year's election, he had been appointed to fill the vacant CFO position.