

NASIG Newsletter

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President's Corner

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Spring Has NOT Sprung

Many of you know that I spent more than twenty years in Alabama (with a couple of detours in southern Africa). While I am loving my new home in the mountains of North Carolina, I have to admit that I miss late winter in Alabama. By this time there are probably daffodils and crocuses coming up there with azaleas and dogwood blossoms just a few short weeks behind. Here in North Carolina I still have a few patches of snow on the north side of my house! But I've learned that using my shiny new snow shovel is darned good exercise when it's too cold or icy to get out and walk. Silver linings, folks.

Election Time

If you bother to search, you'll find at least one common theme among past President's Corners in the March issue of the NASIG Newsletter. That is an encouragement to vote! By now the Nominations & Elections Committee has announced the slate for the upcoming election, and I have to say that they have presented an outstanding group. I noted to the Executive Board that it will be very difficult to decide how to cast my ballot. Can't we just elect everyone and share the work load among that many more? Seriously, I do encourage all of you to cast your ballot when the election opens. The candidates who are standing for election are willing to volunteer a lot of time to NASIG; I

hope many of you will spend a few minutes of your time to help choose the leaders of our organization.

Call for Volunteers

Speaking of volunteers, sometime very soon Vice President/President-Elect Steve Shadle will send out a call for volunteers. I hate to beat this horse to death, but you know that volunteers are the life-blood of this organization. If you've served on a committee before, then you probably know that this work can be enriching and rewarding. Not only does it move the work of NASIG forward, but it helps you meet and network with colleagues, and it makes attending conferences more fun when you've got committee pals to hang around with! Whether you're a seasoned NASIGer or a fresh member, please consider giving some of your time and skills to this organization.

Scenario Planning, Again

The board continues to examine, discuss, and take action on the scenario planning session held prior to the last conference. Some of the action items have been passed on to relevant committees; some will require the formation of task forces or other similar groups. On the recently revived NASIG-L you will soon see a message about one of the activities we participated in during that session. We hope it will engender some thought and discussion among members. Keep an eye out.

Conferences

As has been announced, last year's Site Selection Committee decided to take advantage of favorable pricing and move ahead with site selection for the 2012 conference. That will take place in Nashville, TN in June 2012. The Conference Planning Committee (CPC) and Program Planning Committee (PPC) for that conference have not yet been formed. Stay tuned for more information in the coming year about that. In an unprecedented move the committee decided to stay ahead of the advantageous pricing curve and move forward with selection for 2013! That contract is being negotiated; more information will be forthcoming.

Finally, both PPC and CPC are busily planning for the 2011 conference in St. Louis. The program is shaping up really nicely, and so are the social functions! I'm especially excited about the opening reception at the City Museum (<http://www.citymuseum.org/home.asp>) and the baseball game on Friday night. There are no official events planned for Saturday evening -- and that's great. It will give you time to explore St. Louis, which is an interesting and exciting city. The slate of programs and speakers is nothing to sneeze at either! More news will appear via email blasts and on NASIG-L.

Here's hoping you all have a wonderful spring, whenever it arrives in your region!