



NASIG NEWSLETTER

Vol. 31, no. 2

May 2016

eISSN 1542-3417

President's Corner

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We are heading into final preparations for our conference in Albuquerque! I'm really excited about the programming that we have in store this year, and we have a trip on Thursday to the Anderson-Abruzzo International Balloon Museum for our opening reception, which looks both fun and educational! Just a few weeks into registration, we have nearly 140 people registered for the conference, so it looks like we will have a robust turnout this year. Our conference hotel has booked up quickly, and we have secured a block of rooms at a secondary hotel nearby, the Best Western. The growing pains are uncomfortable, but I'm happy to see that we are indeed growing! If you know folks who would benefit from joining NASIG now that we have expanded our vision and mission, please spread the word. Our programming this year shows that is already starting to happen: We have a rich diversity of topics this year at the conference.

Right now we have 906 members in NASIG, of which 401 are student members, resulting from the year of free NASIG membership that began in January. We are seeking ways to bring our new student members into the fold and make NASIG a meaningful experience for them, so if you have ideas, please pass them along to a board member or to info@nasig.org.

The board continues to cull through the various suggestions that arose during the strategic planning session in January. We will be appointing a strategic planning task force soon to write a formal plan with action items. However, rather than waiting for a formal plan, the board has already begun moving forward on some of the items, such as voting to join NISO as an organizational member. This will allow NASIG to

propose standards as an organization and to vote on standards relating to our mission. We are also working on plans to enhance NASIG's fundraising and marketing—more on that later as those projects solidify.

Next week, I head to the UKSG conference in Bournemouth, UK. As my year of NASIG presidency winds down, I am happy to see the direction NASIG is moving. We have accomplished a lot this year and laid some good groundwork. As NASIG's financial standing becomes even stronger, I'd like to see NASIG move toward either having a paid staff or outsourcing various functions. This will allow our volunteers to do more high-level work, as we have done with the *Core Competencies*, and less event planning and web maintenance. This year, Nonprofit Help assisted in making reservations for the NASIG Award winners and selected aspects of the conference planning process.

During the preparations for the strategic planning session, we found that when our membership numbers dropped several years ago, the number of people needed to run the organization did not. As of December 2015, about 40% of our members were active on a committee or task force needed to perform the various functions of the organization. While such a high rate of participation indicates remarkable dedication on the part of our members, we do not want to burn out our members. When we started discussing the idea of a digital preservation group in response to Anne Kenney's vision session at the 2015 Conference, we realized how thin our resources are already stretched. I would still like to see NASIG circle back to this task force idea, but we must provide some relief for

the volunteers that we have. NASIG needs to create volunteer opportunities that have a greater professional impact both for the individuals involved and the organization as a whole. I am eager to see how NASIG transforms the information community over the next few years, and to continue to participate in that development in any way that I can.