



Structural Movers are in a Win, Win Situation

This is the twelfth issue of this publication in the past 36 months since the Board of Directors requested I assumed responsibilities as editor in October 2003. Working with the guidance of an Editorial Advisory Committee each year efforts have been made to continually improve the appearance, content, features, increase advertising and establish **STRUCTURAL-MOVER** as THE publication of the structural moving industry worldwide. From all accounts significant progress has been accomplished in every area. Nevertheless, continual improvement will be sought in all future issues.

Following are some of the ways **STRUCTURALMOVER** has attempted to help you improve your company's situation.

- April 2004: Codified undocumented historical association information for future posterity. Industry News and IASM News features were launched, as was a comprehensive review of the annual conference complete with real time awards. Introduced contact information and photographic directory of directors. Became a quarterly publication. Released first professional Directory of members.
- June 2004: Complete reporting of all Awards Competition Winners in one issue, plus initiating structural moving Industry Statistical Research efforts.
- September 2004: Memorialized the history of **STRUCTURALMOVER** and introduced new *Company Member Profile* and *Safety Matters* features.
- December 2004: Introduced the *Structural Moving Photo of the Year* feature plus publishing all awards competition entries for the year.
- March 2005: Confirmed official purpose of SM, introduced *Directors' Profiles* feature. Announced truck raffle funding raising project and membership enlistment award.
- June 2005: What IASM is, where, why and what needs to be done for future effectiveness.
- September 2005: Introduced *Second Winners in Category* feature, verified governance responsibilities of the association and delineated responsibilities of staff and editor.
- December 2005: Encouraged commitment to be the best in the industry and introduced an *Insurance Perspective* feature plus establishing an annual listing of all *Meetings of Structural Mover Associations in North America*.
- March 2006: Reviewed educational opportunities efforts.
- June 2006: Detailed association efforts to bring more recognition to IASM and industry companies.
- September 2006: North Carolina House Movers Association adopted Structural Mover as its official publication. Established confirmation of structural moving historical existence. Empha-

sized safety and highlighted 25th Anniversary of conference meeting.

- December 2006: Announcing *Business Improvement Considerations for Management* and *Bread & Butter Moves* features.

Economically, the past three to five years have been excellent for structural movers. Companies have been able to improve or purchase better or new equipment. Backlogs of work have gotten longer. The amount of work has proliferated to the point obtaining adequate labor has become an issue. Horror of all horrors many companies have actually had to refuse new opportunities for even more work due to a lack of labor and hours in a day. Yet, higher fuel costs, and in some cases increased insurance premiums, have been manageable due to better economic conditions. Increased cost of new housing brought a renewed interest in moving existing structures to suitable locations for living. Increased capital spending has created a greater need to move structures for new developments, transportation constructions, etc. Many members have reported longer working seasons due to warmer weather. A strong economy requires work be performed regardless of former traditional working practices. Joint ventures are on the rise. The stock markets are at an all time high. The population has more disposable income.

In this current economic climate, now is an opportunistic time, to improve management skills and become better prepared for when the economy may be less favorable. There are excellent opportunities for you to improve your skills by attending the 25th Anniversary Annual Conference in Tucson, Arizona February 14-18 2007 at The Hotel Arizona. Go ahead, register now. See page 5.



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