

# President's Message



**Joshua Wendland**

**W**ow, what a conference! It was great seeing old friends and meeting new ones. I spent the afternoon on Sunday, following the meeting, walking the boardwalk by the beach and reflecting on all the great educational opportunities. We all were impressed by the new innovations and improvements by the vendors at the Products & Services Exposition. Then there was the great lunch we shared at Matyiko's yard, and celebrating all the great award winners at Saturday evenings well run dinner event and awards ceremony. When you come from the cold northern plains to visit the sandy beaches of Virginia, it truly makes you feel alive and refreshed. I feel humbled and honored to hold the position that many of the greats in our industry have held and assure you that I will do my very best to promote our industry and maintain its long tradition of helping members accomplish together what none of us can accomplish alone.

Directors decided at this meeting to create a new critical issues committee with the task of developing a program to help all members with the ability to easily present the argument of "Relocation vs. Demolition." We must all take up this noble and just cause, by promoting, reuse and recycle as opposed to demolish and destroy. In a time when citizens around the world are hurting for many reasons, the time to take up this issue has never been better. Generally people resent wasting resources and rewarding those corporations and government officials who don't look to "greener" options first. Please take the time to read the articles that have appeared in this magazine and request, if you don't have a copy; the brochure developed to summarize what this amazing movement is all about.

This is a terrific opportunity for us, as members of IASM, to act positively for our industry. Each of us must rise to the challenge and help ourselves by helping our industry move this issue to the forefront of people's thoughts and consciousness, especially those in decision-making positions. This issue will make it easier to take up other issues involving utility companies and transportation officials by informing them why helping structural movers and recyclers is in their interests as well. Also it will let them know our members, and that this industry saves natural resources, prevents needless demolition of existing housing, reduces the need for landfills, maintains dwellings on the tax rolls and helps provide affordable housing for our less fortunate citizens.

I hope you are ready to help and excited about the possibilities and opportunities this type of movement can provide each and every one of us. I encourage you to contact any member of the Critical Issues Committee, our helpful staff or me to find out what **you** can do to help your own business and your friends in our industry.

We truly are **Making A Difference!!**

Thank you. I wish for all of you a safe and profitable year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Joshua Wendland". The signature is fluid and cursive.