



# President's Message

## State of the Association

**F**or my message in this issue I would like to share with you the state of IASM. Most presidents and prime ministers provide annually a state of their union speech. My "speech" will be this message.

After telephoning many members over the past weeks and months, the ones who returned my calls seem to agree business is brisk. Some experienced a slower Spring than they had wished but most say work in their area is currently abundant. Hopefully the same is true for each of you.

Summer is generally the busiest season for most of us. Just taking care of business and carving out some time for family is more than a fulltime job. Attempting to accomplish something for the association during this time of year isn't easy for any of us procrastinators. Just because I currently serve as president doesn't make me any better. I'm just as guilty as anyone of you. Just ask Gene. Correspondence and phone messages stack up on my desk just like yours with only the most urgent receiving my attention. So what's been happening with the association this summer?

Jason DeVooght and members of the Industry Guidelines Task Group have continued to make progress on the Proposed Procedural Guidelines For Structural Movers. The Task Group would welcome your input. Congratulations are in order for Jason and Deanna. Last September they adopted little Evangeline "Evi" Marie. You guessed it. Deanna is pregnant so little Evi will soon be a "big" sister.

Recently-elected director Don Toothman and structural movers from Tennessee were caught off guard with legislation being passed by the Tennessee General Assembly extremely harmful to our industry. Don has been informed the Tennessee Home Builders Association had a strong hand in bringing about the punitive legislation. He has requested assistance from the association seeking a solution to remedy the situation. Gene has been recommending a plan of action for the movers in Tennessee to become more involved in the political process to help avoid similar situations in the future.

Mike Blake and Wayne Overton continue to work with the North Carolina General Assembly on legislation favorable to the structural moving industry in their state. Gene is involved in that effort as well.

Matt Sundeen and members of the Membership Committee continue to increase membership with more first-time companies joining. As one example, in 2006 there were only four members domiciled in Texas and one of those was sponsored. There are nine members from Texas listed in the 2007 Directory of Members and none is sponsored. Solicitation mailings have gone to current prospects. And if you haven't visited the association's website, [www.iasm.org](http://www.iasm.org), lately you need to immediately. It has been redesigned, for the second time since 2002, and features the new 3.5-minute movie on the Home Page. In excess of 40 new photographs of member moves are now seen throughout the site. Members will be asked this fall to solicit at least one company each to become a member through a Special Offer.

As you know the 2008 annual conference will be February 20-24 at the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel South in Minneapolis, Minnesota. William Johnson, chairman, and his Education Committee promise the best

education program ever. Robert Swift, President, Terry Semple, Vice President, Larry Stubbs, Secretary, and members of the Minnesota Building Movers Association are working closely with William and Gene to put on a first class professional event.

So, what is my opinion of the "state of the association" overall?

I believe we are in the best condition ever on all fronts. Our numbers continue to grow. Treasurer Wendland says we are in a sound financial condition. Our image and publication, **Structural Mover** magazine, are both top drawer. And all this has been accomplished through professional management with only slight increases in member dues and conference registrations, both of which were long overdue. The increase in new companies becoming members and attendance at conferences by younger aged movers is the recognition that IASM, like no other structural mover association/organization, provides the educational opportunities, equipment exposure, personal contacts and fellowship. There is a saying "copying is the highest form of flattery". If true you, the membership, should be flattered as elements of the association's publication and conference are being copied on a regular basis. Directors, during their meeting next month in Virginia Beach, VA will be, among other things, evaluating possible sites for future meeting and considering strategic plans for future financial and management programs or conferences.

I'm so very proud of what we as an association are accomplishing. Thanks for giving me an opportunity to be involved. I want this association to be around years into the future to assist my children in the business some day just as my dad and former boards have done for us. I know we are on the right track.

Now, I wouldn't be doing my job if I didn't ask each of you to use the loose Member Application inserted in this magazine to contact and sign up a new mover company. Not only that but give them one of the copies of this issue of the magazine and invite them to attend the annual conference in Minneapolis in February. God Bless.



**David Vant Hul**