SES State of the Society 2019

by Edward Mikoski

This year, 2019, included the 68th consecutive Annual Conference of the Society and was the ninth held in Canada. Our Organization Members presently stand strong at forty and that constitutes about 55% of our total individual members.

The Society has evolved significantly since its inception in 1947. This State of the Society points out some of this past year’s accomplishments and happenings molded by our dynamic diversity of volunteers. If you see something that is of interest to you, we invite you to participate.

SES Executive Committee

The SES Executive Committee consists of the officers — now Mili Washington as President, Karen Reczek as Vice President, Craig Cerniglia as Treasurer, Gillian Wintonic as Secretary, myself as Immediate Past President and Executive Director Mike Morrell. The Executive Committee deals with the high-level issues requiring the attention of your officers and Executive Director. The Directors comprise the remaining balance of the Board.

Executive Director

Once again, this year, Mike Morrell has served us all quite well as the Executive Director of SES. He, with support from Leona Nisbet, provide all the behind-the-scenes operational support that is crucial to making SES run smoothly. Literally, a monumental task and much appreciated.

SES Board of Directors

The Board traditionally conducts a face-to-face meeting immediately following the conclusion of the SES Annual Conference. This includes any outgoing Board members whose terms are expiring and any incoming replacements. My two-year term as President has come to completion and I now assume the role of Immediate Past President. With Mili Washington becoming our new President it causes a cascading effect. Karen Reczek has moved from the Education Director position into the Vice President position and Lisa Spellman has assumed the Education Director slot after having served as the Chair of the Education Committee. So, this year, we hail Lisa as a new Board member, and wish a thankful farewell to Richard Forselius for his “beyond the call of duty” dedicated service on multiple director and officer Board roles over the last decade or so.

Current Directors are Muhammad Ali, CStd – Membership; Teresa Ambrosius, AStd – Publications; Karin Athanas – Marketing; Amanda Benedict, AStd – Conference; Andrei Moldoveanu, AStd – Technical; Lisa Spellman, AStd – Education.

The Board normally holds two or three face-to-face meetings annually in addition to about eight to ten meetings by web conference. Heavy focus this year was placed upon improving effectiveness of the Conference Logistics Committee (CLC) including increased transparency, communication, and coordination with the other committees involved in conference-related tasks. In addition to all the Society’s projects, we
successfully migrated to a new platform for our electronic Workspace used for the Board’s and all the committees’ secure document storage and access, rosters, digital discussions and even digital polling, commenting, and voting.

The President oversees many external relationships for the Society. The SES and ANSI collaboration has remained strong during this past year, and leaders from the two organizations continue to look for opportunities for cooperation and cross promotion. SES also has a collaborative relationship with the Standards Council of Canada and the International Federation of Standards Users (IFAN). Claudia Bach is the SES liaison at IFAN and during this past year, was elected as an IFAN Board member.

**Treasurer and Finance Committee**

Under the financial leadership of Treasurer Craig Cerniglia, the Society is sound financially. Craig has done an exceptional job in his role as Treasurer and continues to fine tune our transition from the manual entry process on a spreadsheet to the use of QuickBooks™ online, thus facilitating the creation of data analysis and reports for the Board, and better and more efficient bookkeeping.

The Treasurer along with the Finance Committee and Executive Director meet annually to develop a comparison of the prior year’s budget versus actual receipts and expenses, prepare the annual budget for the next fiscal year, as well as prepare and submit the necessary tax forms to the IRS.

**Annual Conference, Conference Program Committee and Conference Logistics Committee**

Our Annual Conference is the result of a very robust planning process within SES. Our annual conference is one of our "crown jewels" and due to terrific volunteer support with tremendous attention to detail we, year after year, have been able to provide quality content. The SES annual conference program is developed and executed by the Conference Program Committee, Conference Logistics Committee, and invited presenters and moderators, with ongoing support and expertise from the SES Board of Directors. This could not be accomplished without the dedication of this very large group of contributors, and special appreciation goes to our Conference Committee Director, Mark Ramlochan the conference chair, Amanda Benedict is our Conference Director on the Board, our executive director Mike Morrell and his assistant Leona Nisbet for their work. Many thanks also to the sponsoring organizations and exhibitors for this event.

**Awards Committee**

The SES Awards Committee this year was ably chaired by Amanda Benedict and presented awards to eight individuals in six categories during our annual Conference.

- **Leo B. Moore Award** – Steven P. Oksala, FSES, CStd, CAE
- **SES/CSA Lorne K. Wagner Memorial Award** – Karen Reczek, CStd
- **SES Fellow** – Joy Fitzpatrick, AStd, FSES and Jim Walters, FSES
- **Emerging Professional Award** – Muhammad Ali, CStd and Gillian Wintonic, AStd
- **SES/ASTM Robert J. Painter Award** - Tripp Fischer
SES Distinguished Service Award – Karin Athanas

SES Student Scholarship – Lucas Barber and Rebekah Schrader

Recognition was also bestowed upon two SES new organization members: ISMS Solutions, LLC and the US Department of Homeland Security. The awards presented are always very competitive due to the number of deserving standards professionals under consideration each year and members of SES are encouraged to send in nominations for the upcoming year.

Certification Committee

Certification is currently a high strategic priority of the Board. Committee leaders and Board members are reviewing all related aspects to make the standards professional certification a widely recognized credential. The review includes expanding and better qualifying prerequisites for AStd, reviewing of tests for both AStd and CStd with increased content related to SES standards, potential profession recognition by the Department of Labor, popularizing it, and making the SES certification respected nationwide and beyond.

Education Committee

Since Lisa Spellman has moved from Chair of the Education Committee to the Board as the Education Director, we are now seeking a Chair for the Education Committee. Education is a vital piece in accomplishing the vision of SES. As such, the education committee has been quite active. Since the last SES Annual Conference, the Education Committee has:

- Planned and delivered 5 webinars from September 2018 through May 2019. SES partners with ANSI annually on one webinar per year. Be sure to register for three upcoming webinars, one per month in September, October, and November.
- Supported SES’s educational programming by organizing and delivering a half-day continuing education course on Fundamentals of Standards and Conformity Assessment: Tools for Today’s Professional, on Tuesday, August 6th and a half-day interactive workshop, NextGen Standardization Professional, also on August 6th, in conjunction with the Annual Conference.
- Partnered with the Certification Committee to develop a listing of relevant course work applicable to the SES Certification Program and to update SES Certification tests and forms. Work is underway to revamp the Certification Program, develop formal administrative procedures and identify avenues for marketing.

The Committee is brainstorming and exploring the possibility of introducing an “apprentice” program.

SES, through the Education Committee, continues to jointly sponsor standards education services and courses with IP Shield and the IP Alliance. Financial Audit Committee

The SES Financial Audit Committee was chaired by Mili Washington. Although not a true independent outside audit, the committee successfully completed a detailed
internal review last year. The Board of Directors and the Financial Audit Committee have a fiduciary responsibility to SES members to assure sound financial practices are employed and statements are created. SES uses QuickBooks™ online and this allows the committee to analyze different available reports and methodologies. The Financial Audit Committee continues its work to ensure consistency in the financial review process and documentation.

Leadership Development Committee
Vice President Karen Reczek now oversees the Leadership Development Committee, which is responsible for soliciting nominees and recommending candidates for all elective offices of the Society. Chris Carnahan ably chairs the committee and is continually seeking assistance in identifying and nominating potential candidates for the Society officers, directors, committee chairs, and vice chairs positions. If you have interest in serving SES in any capacity, we strongly encourage you to please contact any member of the Leadership Development Committee, or the SES Board of Directors.

Marketing Committee
The SES Marketing Committee has seen significant changes and improvements over the course of the 2018-2019 timespan. Through collaboration with the SES Board, the marketing committee has developed advertising content for the SES and all SES services and is moving forward to promote the SES in related standards publications. The SES Marketing Committee continues work on a redesign of the SES website and creation of an SES storefront, both of which are expected to launch this fall 2019.

In addition to promotion of the 68th SES Annual Conference, the SES Marketing Committee has worked closely with SES committees to promote the 2019 webinars, solicit nominations for awards, leadership positions, and to promote the SES Scholarship. The committee has also begun promotion of World Standards Day and events hosted by the SES DC Capital Area Section – a group of SES members located in and around the DC Metro area.

Over the course of 2019, SES social media engagement has increased 10% or more on LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook with additional followers finding the SES each day. If you are not yet following the SES social media pages, consider following, liking, and sharing today to receive up-to-date information on news, events, and other activities and to invite more standards professionals to join SES.

SES Marketing Director and Committee Chair Karin Athanas oversees the work of the marketing committee and is looking for additional committee members to step into roles of Chair and Vice Chair for the upcoming year. Opportunities include working on the website redesign, developing marketing campaigns and content, and enhancing the SES’ social media interactions with members. If you are interested in gaining experience and knowledge on marketing and social networking approaches, reach out to Karin Athanas to request membership to the Marketing Committee.

Membership Committee and SES Student Scholarship Committee
The committees worked diligently to revise the requirements for SES Student Scholarship ensuring that our program is both attractive, relevant, and selects the best future leaders of standards. For two consecutive years, SES has been able to award not
just one but two scholarship awards. Thank you to our SES Student Scholarship Sponsors UL, NEMA, and CSA.

The SES National Capital Area Section has been very successful in hosting events. This year alone, the Section has already hosted two events with a third one coming up in November in conjunction with World Standards Week. This year for the very first time, we hosted a very successful Next Generation Standards Professional Workshop focusing on the future of standards and the Next Generation standardization professionals.

Publications Committee
The publications area is overseen by Publications Council Director, Teresa Ambrosius. The Chair of the committee recently left the standards industry and Teresa is looking for a new Chair. The committee continues to:

- Produce the professional journal for the society
- In 2019, the Journal editor Steve Oksala retired, and Ileana Martinez has been hired into the position. Thank you to Steve for his commitment to the Journal and welcome Ileana!
- Oversee WSD Paper Competition judging
- Increase digital subscriptions to the journal
- Work with the marketing committee to increase visibility for SES publications
- Review and proof the SES newsletter, journal, conference program, and ads
- Explore collaboration with higher education institutions to increase SES publication awareness

Many thanks to the entire publications team for their diligent work.

Rules and Resolutions Committee
The Rules and Resolutions Committee is handled by Secretary Gillian Wintonic. The Rules and Resolutions Committee advises on all matters pertaining to the Society constitution and bylaws, section by-laws, and the scope of Society standing committees. The Rules and Resolutions Committee has overall responsibility for the SES Terms of Reference (TORs). Terms of Reference for various areas of SES operations are on a three-year review cycle and are now coming due for review and update. All published Terms of Reference documents are posted on the online workspace with access given to the appropriate committee members.

Standards Committee
The committee endeavored to finish reformatting and reorganizing SES-2 Model Procedures for the Development of a Standard. The project was started two years ago aiming to generate a Guide for new and more established SDOs. In the process, members agreed to separate content to distinguish between requirements and best practice. Chair Patricia Sena circulated recently for comment a draft in that format to committee members.

Summary
I am pleased to proclaim that SES, through its dedicated diverse expertise of volunteers, is strong and has enabled us to accomplish quite a bit over this past year.
This progress is only possible through significant support and participation by you, our members. I am pleased to work with this cohesive Board, and we all appreciate the work that the various committees complete every single day to strengthen the value of SES as we continue expanding the future of standardization. Significant work has already begun for our 2020 Conference to be held in Charleston, South Carolina next August and a team for the 2021 Conference is now being formed. If you are interested in helping us plan and prepare for these activities or any of the many other opportunities that may pique your interest, please feel free to contact any member of the Board — if not, then why not at least consider obtaining your SES standards certification?