This year for SES has been both an exciting and challenging time as we continue to make our transition into the future.

In January, our Executive Director, Leona Nisbet submitted her resignation to the Board of Directors. The Executive Director Search Committee went into action to find a replacement as quickly, but as thoroughly, as possible. The job listing was posted in various publications and the Committee met several times throughout the winter. The SES Executive Director position was offered to Mike Morrell who accepted our offer and officially became the Society’s Executive Director on May 1, 2012. Mike has been an active member of SES for over 30 years and has served in nearly every position on the SES Board of Directors. His most recent position on the Board was the role of Treasurer, and previously he has served as President, Vice President, Secretary, and SES Conference Committee Chair. At this time, we also would like to thank Leona Nisbet for her time served as Executive Director.

I now would like to move on to our accomplishments for this year.

We heard the call—too many email messages going out regarding SES events and news. The Marketing Committee’s efforts to share information with our members without overwhelming them with too many weekly messages resulted in a one page monthly message which includes all the latest information our members need to know about SES.

The SES Board of Directors is now fully engaged with the ECA/Kavi workspace for all Board proceedings. This includes agendas, minutes, and posting of presentations for Board meetings. The transition occurred slowly, with a duplicate approach in place for six months, and since January 1, 2012, all documents are now posted in the workspace.

The Nominations Committee was active early in the calendar year. We had a focused Nominations Committee effort early in 2012 where attendance and involvement was high. We all need to be ambassadors and recruit talent throughout the year not just during election time. There were no Committee issues except finding a Committee Chair other than the Secretary. Thank you Rich for heading up the Committee this year and hopefully someone will step up and take chairmanship next year. The Nominations Committee was made up of members of the five Councils:

- Chair – Richard Forselius, Secretary
- Education Council – Mili Washington
- Marketing Council – Brian Murphy
- Membership Council – Duane Brown
- Publications Council – Kerianne Conn
- Technical Council - Michael Woodford

The approach of having each Director nominate a representative is working well. A stronger, larger SES society would allow more names “in the hat” as potential nominees. Anyone interested is asked to come forward.

Following the SES Bylaws, announcements regarding nominations went out to membership in Standards Engineering and via e-mail blasts. Modifications to the Bylaws were passed at the Toronto Board meeting on May 14, 2012. Subsequent to this, additional Bylaw changes were recommended. This was addressed at the SES Board meeting which was held at the conclusion of the annual conference in August.

Also this year, the Board determined that most all SES Operational Bulletins will need to be revised. A Terms of Reference approach was recommended for adoption by all SES committees.

The Education Committee planned and successfully held four webinars so far this year and is scheduled to conduct another three in the upcoming months. “What to do about SES-1 and -2?” originally was scheduled to be presented this past spring, but due to technical difficulties it has been rescheduled for September. This webinar will be presented by our newly elected Technical Council Director Joe Bocchiaro.

We are currently exploring alternative webinar platforms with additional features. We are excited to announce that our webinars will now be offered free of charge to members starting in September. This is a great educational tool. So you now can add this to the benefits of membership.

We are seeking sponsorships so that we can continue to offer all of our webinars free for our members. If your organization might be interested in sponsoring a webinar, please contact Ashley Griggs-DeGiacomo (agriggs@kavi.com).

On the topic of Awards, first let me once again congratulate our award winners this year. Since last year’s report, Diane Thompson, Editor of Standards Engineering, was chosen as the recipient of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) President’s Award for Journalism. This award recognizes a journalist whose work helps to illuminate the role that standardization and conformity assessment activities play in improving the health and safety of Americans and in strengthening the competitiveness of US business in a global marketplace. Thank you to Diane for all your efforts in making the Journal one of the most highly recognized publications in the standards arena.

The Publications Committee made great strides this year in organizing their projects and aligning their responsibilities to the needs of SES. The Committee continued to support the Journal Editor with review and input, and reviewed publications published by the Society including “for purchase” items such as our standards and guides. In addition, the Publications Committee was responsible for overseeing the US World Standards Day Paper Competition, and was instrumental in managing the creation of the SES Annual Conference program.

In 2012, the Publications Committee convened the new Journal Policy Sub-team which documented its responsibilities, organized a member survey to be sent later this year, and is studying electronic publication of the Society’s Journal. In conjunction with the Marketing Committee, the Publications Committee created a design guide to manage the brand identity of SES.

The Standards Committee has focused this year on updating the two SES publications related to standards development. In conjunction with this, the development procedures of SES were revised and all
ANSI-auditable documents were archived in the KAVI site. This was prompted by the ANSI requirement to renew SES-1: Recommended Practice for the Designation and Organization of Standards in 2012. No new projects were begun this year as a result. The final publication version of SES-2: Model Procedure for the Development of Standards has been proofed and approved, and sent to the Publications Committee. SES-2 was revised during 2010-2011. SES-1 was revised and submitted for an official ANSI 45-day electronic public review. Twenty three comments were received, and the Committee is clearing these comments while making revisions to the document. It is uncertain at this time whether any of these changes will be considered to be “substantive.”

The Standards Committee has received comments on the draft of the SES Standards Development Procedures from the Board. The Committee will review these and revise the document accordingly. This requires Board approval for ANSI audit purposes, so the revised version will be sent back to the Board as soon as possible. Work has not begun yet on this revision. The Committee also created a Strategic Plan and presented it to the Board of Directors. There have been preliminary discussions about succession for the Chair position. The Committee will turn to other projects once SES-1 has been completed. Topics for development include a digital standards designation, and an initiative to administer the prolongation of discontinued standards. Participation in meetings remains low, and new volunteers are welcome, particularly as new projects are to begin soon.

I am happy to report that SES membership has increased 3.4 percent from this time last year. As of July 31, 2012 the SES membership stands at 511. If the trend of the last ten years holds, we can expect the SES membership to continue growing over the next few years. This year, we added three new Organization Members: the US Food and Drug Administration, Intertek, and the Petroleum Industry Data Exchange, Inc.

In the coming year, the Membership Committee hopes to unveil a member recruitment rewards program as well as develop a strategy to recruit more international members. We continue to have our reciprocal membership with ANSI. In October, we will be meeting with the new ANSI Director of Membership to discuss future plans.

Part of the SES mission is to provide professional development and certification. The SES certification program recognizes those individuals who have demonstrated a high degree of professional competence in various areas of standards and standardization. This past year, the Certification Committee has strengthened the program by updating the associate standards professional certification (AStd) examination questions to be based on the new edition of SES’s A Guide To Standards. Also, the Committee updated the Standards Professional Certification (CStd) exam to be based on A Guide To Standards, SES standards 1 and 2, the NSSN search engine for standards, and the US and Canadian Standards Strategies.

Our overarching goals are to promote SES throughout the community, increase membership, and further our certification and education programs.

Also this year, we began enforcement of the requirement that individuals recertify every five years and an updated Certification Program Booklet was issued. The program retains the option of completing Standards Aware™ online courses to fulfill entry requirements. The work has resulted in ensuring a balanced, objective, and impartial certification program with successful processing and verification of certification applications and examinations ongoing. We currently have 41 individuals certified.

We also have initiated a grassroots marketing effort for our certification program, as we work to make our organizational members and other employers instrumental in supporting their employees as they prepare for AStd or CStd certification. New certification program flyers and brochures were developed and provided to the Marketing and Publication Committees to keep up the intensity of the program. Our intentions are to outreach and make the program a credential for employers to use for selection and advancement of employees.

The SES Board met at the CSA Group offices in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada on May 14-16, 2012. A big “thank you” goes out to Patti Ensor and CSA for hosting SES at this facility. Our main goal for this meeting was to work on developing an updated strategic plan. Rich Forselius, SES Secretary, facilitated the working session and kept the conversation going with new and innovative ideas from both the Board and through the committee Chairs. Committees, Chairs, and Council Directors were asked to make recommendations and provide guidance and advice on future direction rather than the usual reporting on progress. Most all recommendations were thoroughly accepted and tactical implementation will continue. Thanks to Rich for doing a great job of keeping us all on task!

A more detailed description of our strategic planning can be found in the July/August 2012 issue of Standards Engineering. Our first task was to look at the current SES Vision and Mission. The updated versions are as follows:

Vision: To be the premier organization developing standards professionals through education, certification, and recognition.

Mission: To provide opportunities for professional development through programs and services, and to promote awareness, use, and value of standards and conformity assessment.

Our overarching goals are to promote SES throughout the community, increase membership, and further our certification and education programs. To do this, we will need every member’s participation. The next time you get together with your colleagues, take a few minutes to tell them about the “best kept secret in the standards business” which is, of course, SES. We will continue to promote the Society in every way we can, but the best advertisement we can receive is a referral from another member. I also encourage everyone to join one of our many Committees. We need your input and fresh ideas. Please speak to any one of us if you are interested in volunteering to serve on these committees. There is something for everyone!

Thank you for your time and especially your participation.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Emard
SES President