2013 SES Annual Report

Under its Constitution, SES – The Society for Standards Professionals is required to hold an annual meeting. This meeting took place on August 14, 2013 in conjunction with the annual conference. The following is the report of the Society from SES President Ellen Emard.

This year for SES has been both an exciting and challenging time as we continue to make our transition into the future. At this time I would like to move on to our accomplishments for this year.

Marketing
Marketing is overseen by Marketing Council Director Teresa Ambrosius.
• The Marketing Committee has had continued success with the monthly e-mail blasts to membership. This format allows all SES committees to keep the SES membership up-to-date on the events and opportunities that SES offers.
• The SES website has been significantly updated in preparation for a move to a new web platform in early 2014. This includes updated access for members to historical Journals and a fully revamped Education page.
• There is continued activity on Twitter (540+ followers), LinkedIn (540+ members), and Facebook (25 members), including cross promotion with ANSI and the Standards Boost Business Campaign, Member Companies, and individual standards professionals.
• The Committee has worked extensively with the Publications Committee and the SES Executive Director, which resulted in a new implementation of the SES Sponsor and Advertiser structure for the 2013 Conference. The Committee also worked with the Education committee to successfully promote the 2013 Webinars and on-line course offerings.

Education
Education is overseen by Education Council Director Ashley DeGiacomo.

This year the annual webinar series (9 per year) was available “free-to-members” through the generous support of sponsorship from Techstreet, a division of Thomson Reuters.

Upcoming webinars include the following; if anyone has any suggestions for a future webinar, please contact Ashley at Ashley@thecommgroup.com.

• September 18, 2013, 1:00 to 2:30pm – ASEE (American Society for Engineering Education) and How Standards Find Their Way into the Classroom, presented by Bill Kelly, Director of External Affairs, ASEE.
• October 16, 2013, 1:00 to 2:30pm – Emerging Digital Access to Standards and Content Authoring Technologies, presented by Mike Petosa, Vice President of Information Technology at the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).
• November 20, 2013, 1:00 to 2:30pm – The Value of Federal Government Agencies’ participation in Consensus Standards Development, presented by Gregory Saunders, Director of the Defense Standardization Program Office (DSPO) at the US Department of Defense (DoD).

Other activities by the Education Committee included:
• Implementation of Adobe Forms for the webinar aftermarket survey.
• Identification and coordination of new continuing education course offerings at the annual conference.
• In conjunction with Bruce Harding at Purdue University and IP-Shield, the committee obtained two standards education grants from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Diane Thompson, Project Director, provided will be providing information about these projects at the annual conference.
• The education pages on the SES website have been updated to better serve members.

Awards Committee
The Awards Committee is chaired by Trudie Williams.
First let me once again give congratulations to our SES award winners this year; the details are documented elsewhere in this issue of the Journal.
SES members have also received various ANSI Awards. Since my last report, ANSI 2012 awards were received by Gordon Gillerman (the Gerald H. Ritterbusch award) and Jean-Paul Emard (the ANSI Meritorious Service Award.) This year we are excited to announce that 41 percent of the ANSI 2013 award winners are SES members. I would like to recognize those award winners that are present. Kerri Conn, our Publications Committee Chair will be receiving the ANSI Next Generation Award, Ed Mikoski our Treasurer will be receiving the Meritorious Service Award, Laura Hitchcock will receive the George S. Wham Leadership Medal, and Peter Unger will receive the Gerald H. Ritterbusch Conformity Assessment Medal. Congratulations to all the SES members receiving ANSI awards.

Technical Council
The Technical Council is headed by Technical Council Director Joe Bocchiaro. Reporting to the Technical Committee are the Certification Committee led by Mike Woodford and the Standards Committee led by Dale Gallman, who is replacing Jean-Paul Emard. Thanks Jean-Paul, and welcome Dale!

Certification
Part of the SES mission is to provide professional development and certification. SES’s certification program recognizes those individuals who have demonstrated a high degree of professional competence in various areas of standards and standardization. The Associate Standards Professional Certification (AStd) examination questions are based on the new edition of SES’s A Guide to Standards. The option of completing Standards Aware online courses to fulfill entry requirements has been retained. The Standards Professional Certification (CStd) exam is based on SES 1 and SES 2; the NSSN, and the U.S. and Canadian Standards Strategies.

Promotional materials for the certification program were updated over the past year to include: an updated certification program brochure; an updated certification program flyer; and a new certification

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program ad. The website includes the latest Certification Program Booklet.

This year we made personal invitations to a number of targeted prospective candidates with follow-ups and we continued our enforcement of the requirement that individuals recertify every five years in order to retain their certification.

The work of the Certification Committee has resulted in balanced, objective, and impartial criteria in place for the certification program. We continue to successfully process and verify certification applications and administer examinations. We have fifty individuals currently certified with five individuals recently granted certifications while four others are undergoing the requirements.

The Certification Committee continues to engage our organizational members and other employers instrumental in supporting their employees as they prepare for ASStd or CStd certification. Our intentions are to outreach and make the program a market place credential for employers to use for selection and advancement of employees.

Standards

The Standards Committee is undertaking a new project, suggested by Ed Mikoski, to produce a “best practices” document on the “do’s and don’ts” of joint standards. Other activities included:

• The webinar What to do about SES 1 and SES 2 was presented in September.

• Work continues to complete the SES 1 ANSI revisions. One response was received from the distribution of the Responses to Commenters. A Committee response was returned to this commenter. As a result of the BSR–9 review by ANSI, it was determined that several of the revisions to the Draft Standard (SES 1 DS2) constitute “substantive changes.” ANSI requested a second Consensus Body (SES Standards Committee) Ballot and a subsequent second public review. The SES 1 DS3 version passed the Committee Ballot, which closed on May 3, 2013. SES 1 DS3 is under its second 45- day ANSI BSR–8 Public Review, beginning on August 2.

• The 2013 SES Procedures for the Development of Standards were submitted to ANSI per the annual changes to the ANSI Essential Requirements. The ANSI Executive Standards Council had a number of questions, and the committee is working to revise the document.

Publications

Publications is overseen by Publications Council Director Joy Fitzpatrick. The Committee worked hard this year to develop an “epubs” version of the SES Journal. The journal is now available in 3 electronic formats – PDF, ePub, and Mobi for Kindle. This makes the journal available on a variety of electronic devices, including smart phones and tablets.

We lost our award winning editor, Diane Thompson, but we’ve gained a new enthusiastic one! Steve Oksala was selected to head the Standards Engineering Journal. Steve will edit all journal content in accordance with accepted editorial standards and the SES design guide, write short and medium-length pieces, solicit feature articles, develop an annual editorial calendar, and serve as an active member of the SES Publications Committee, among other duties. Prior to joining SES, Steve worked as an independent consultant on issues involving standards and related topics. In addition, he was previously employed by ANSI member and accredited standards developer the Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers (SCTE) as the Society’s vice president for standards. He currently serves as a member of ANSI’s Board of Directors and as a member of the ANSI Appeals Board.

The Committee updated the documentation on the World Standards Day (WSD) Paper competition judging. With the help of head judge JoAnne Overman the team revised the marketing materials to clarify the process for writing an appropriate paper and the steps for submitting it to the judging panel. More information is on the SES website under “World Standards Day.”

The Committee is currently undergoing an exercise to refresh the SES advertisements in the Journal. We will also consider using these ads in other marketing opportunities.

The Committee conducted a member survey with questions from the various committees. We created the survey to include general questions but also provided plenty of opportunities to add personal comments.

99 percent of the respondents reported that they are satisfied with their membership while 89 percent saying they would recommend membership to colleagues. Over 65 percent say they’d like to receive the journal electronically – half of those wishing to receive both paper and electronic.

Membership

Membership is overseen by by Matt Williams, Membership Council Director.

Membership has increased 9.23 percent from this time last year. As of July 31, 2013 the SES membership stands at 563. This increase is nearly 3 times the increase we saw from 2011 to 2012 and continues the trend of gaining membership each year for all but 1 of the last 11 years. I believe we can expect the SES membership to continue growing over the next few years. Our Organizational Memberships has also increased to 27.

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.

Secretary’s Report

The SES Board of Directors held monthly meetings throughout the year; SES Secretary Rich Forselius was tasked with creating the agendas, reporting through minutes, and coordination of progress from our monthly in-person meetings or teleconferences. Board minutes have allowed the Board to focus on issues addressed, motions passed, actions and those responsible for them, and agreed-to completion dates. This has allowed an improvement in Board meeting efficiency and served as reminders on deliverables, and agreed-to actions.

We followed through with several Strategic Planning sessions with associated initiatives throughout the year. We now focus on future planning with our strategic planning approach; Committee Chairs provided recommendations through the appropriate Director to the Board for consideration. Most of these recommendations were accepted and implementation continues.

We are now fully on-board with our own Board Kavi workspace for all Board proceedings. This includes agendas, minutes and posting of related documents for board meetings.

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Leadership Development Committee

The Leadership Development Committee (formerly the Nominations Committee) reports to the Secretary. It is required to submit to qualified SES member voters a list of nominations containing at least one candidate for each Society Office and one candidate for each Council Directorate to be filled. This is done four months prior to the annual conference by email or by announcement in the SES Journal. The Leadership Development Committee is responsible for soliciting nominees and recommending candidates for all elective offices of the Society, and report to the Secretary.

The Leadership Development Committee is active primarily early in the calendar year. Despite some challenges with our nominations effort early in 2013, a terrific new Board will be seated immediately following the Annual Conference. Please assist us; we all need to be ambassadors and recruit talent throughout the year. If you have interest in serving SES in any capacity, I strongly encourage you to contact any member of the Leadership Development Committee.

Rules & Resolutions Committee

The Rules and Resolutions Committee advises on all matters pertaining to the Society Constitution and Bylaws, Section Bylaws, and the scope of Society Standing Committees, and reports to the Secretary. Amendments to SES Bylaws may be proposed by any member of the Society in writing to the Society Executive Director. Such proposed amendments shall be referred promptly to the Society President and to the Rules and Resolutions Committee. Within 30 days of receipt of the proposal, the Rules and Resolutions Committee shall submit an advisory opinion to the Society President and Secretary. The Society Secretary shall place the proposal as an item on the agenda of the next meeting of the Board of Directors. Although not specifically stated, it is understood that the Rules & Resolutions Committee has overall responsibility for all SES rules (such as OB-Operational Bulletins, and TOR-Terms of Reference).

Modifications to the SES Bylaws were recommended at the SES Board Meeting in New Orleans in 2012 and published on November 7, 2012. There are no known issues with the current SES Constitution. Both are published for your review on the SES website. Many old Operational Bulletins need to be revised and have not yet been transformed into Terms of Reference. A ToR approach was recommended for adoption by all SES Committees in 2011.

Conference

Today marks the conclusion of our 62nd annual conference. It is only right to give a shout out to Sonya Bird, our incoming SES President who is responsible for the overall workings of our annual conference. The conference is divided into two committees—the conference program and a new conference logistics committee. The latter is charged with ensuring the next conferences meeting locations and all the logistical details necessary in providing our members and interested attendees a well-run and managed event. The logistics committee is headed by our Executive Director and he will be leading the effort in determining whether our conference going forward will be streamed to attendees who are unable to physically attend our conferences.

Obviously there is no conference without a conference program. Under the leadership of Chris Carnahan and his outstanding and dedicated committee members, the 2013 program brought to our membership and attendees some of the most renowned and knowledgeable presenters. The Board of Directors are thrilled that Chris has taken on this responsibility for 2014 in Ottawa, Canada.

Conclusion

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for giving me this opportunity to serve as your President. As many of the SES members that I have served with over the last 16 years know, I said I would serve as any position on the Board, but not President. Thanks to those who convinced me that this was the right time to step up and take on the Presidency.

I also would like to thank my husband, long time member of SES, Jean-Paul Emard who served as my proof-reader and mentor during my term. I could not have done this without his support!

In closing, I want to wish Sonya and the new Board the best of luck. I will still be on the Board for the next two years as Immediate Past President. I also plan to be very active with our new Membership Council Director Brian Murphy. Do not be surprised to receive a call from me asking for your help on our Committee. In fact many of you will be called upon to serve on various committees—especially if you expressed an interest. There are many ways to become active. We hope you will consider joining at least one committee.

Thank you.

Ellen Emard

Become an SES Member!

If you use standards, serve on standards development committees, are involved in conformity assessment activities, reference standards in your work, or want to learn more about the role of standards and conformity assessment in our global society, you will benefit from SES membership. Go to www.ses-standards.org to learn about the many benefits of being an SES member.