

## President's Message

The season is underway and I truly hope that first and foremost everyone is being safe out there.

ISSA just held its Spring Board meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, and I must take my hat off to Andrew Crow and Bob Jerman with MeadWestvaco for setting up a great venue. The meeting went well, ISSA remains strong financially, and at this point we do not see a need to increase dues to members for the coming year, thanks in large part to the successful joint annual convention that was held in San Jose del Cabo. The joint convention that we continue to have with AEMA and ARRA not only provides financial stability to ISSA and its members, but also provides a venue to meet and greet not only with our own industry members, but those of the other associations who share a common interest in our industries. It has been the success of these joint conventions that have helped make our association stronger and to have a louder voice in the overall Pavement Preservation arena.

One of the reoccurring themes at our meetings over the past several years is "Why should I belong to ISSA?" or in other words "What has the ISSA done for me lately?" As I stated in my earlier Presidents Message, I have been involved with the ISSA for the past 25 years and have had the pleasure of working on several different committees, and attending numerous conventions and slurry seal workshops over the years. The one thing I will say is "What you get out of ISSA is what you put into it." It has always been said that if you attend a conference and learn just one thing to improve your business, then the conference was worth attending. I cannot remember any ISSA conference that I didn't come away with 2 or 3 new ideas to help our business.

ISSA has done numerous things over the past years to help serve its members but sometimes people just don't realize it.

The ISSA Development Committee puts on a 3-1/2 day Slurry Systems Workshop annually. The annual attendance has been between 275 – 300 people from across the nation. They all come to Las Vegas to learn more about Slurry Systems, which includes Applications, Uses, Surface Preparation, Application Equipment, Lab Equipment and Testing of Materials, just to highlight some of the topics. ISSA is helping your business by training and educating your employees and your customers. This has been going on for over 20 years.

The Marketing Committee developed the new Slurry Systems brochure and dvd. ISSA sends out a quarterly newsletter, not only to all its members, but also additional copies, upon request, so member companies can send the newsletter onto their own customers.

We just changed the membership dynamic of our association to allow Chip Seal and Crack Treatment contractors and suppliers into ISSA. Although this subject was a huge debate at the convention, the recognition for ISSA is starting to show already. ISSA was asked to provide speakers not only for Slurry / Micro Surfacing topics for the 2009 World of Asphalt, but also for Chip Sealing and Crack Treating.

The Research Committee has been diligently reviewing all past Technical Bulletins to make sure all test methods and conversions are accurate. When completed, we will issue an updated version of them. The Technical Response Team fields numerous questions via emails and phone calls regarding uses, placement, and problems associated with Micro Surfacing/Slurry Seals and now they are doing the same for Crack Treatments and Chip Seals.

ISSA has an Asian Market Development Committee that has been providing technical expertise overseas. To date there have been several conferences held in China, including the ISSA 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress. And we're planning a one-day event to be held with the World Congress of Emulsions in October 2010 with assistant from our International Members.

Our Industrial Relations Committee is busy year round attending several trade shows with the ISSA booth, and frequently on the program, across the country to promote Micro Surfacing, Slurry Seals and now Chip Seals and Crack Treatments.

So as you can see, we have a lot of talented people donating a lot of time, money, and other resources to further our industry. We owe these people and their companies a huge thanks. So the next time you come across one of those companies or owners, and you all know who they are, give them a pat on the back and tell them "Thanks!", that's the least we can do.