

ISSA Members Approve Expansion into Chipseal, Crack Treatment
(A news article with a little editorializing)
By Mike Krissoff, ISSA Executive Director

Thursday morning, February 21, 8:00 – 10:00 am, in a meeting room in San Jose del Cabo, marked the best-attended ISSA Annual Business Meeting in recent memory. Forty-five people were in the room, representing 28 voting member companies. They didn't come for the committee reports, or the membership report, or the Treasurer's report; they came for the vote on the proposed bylaws changes which would give ISSA the go ahead to expand its scope to include the chipseal and crack treatment industries.

A bit of background.....

This expansion idea has been batted around for a number of years. The reasons in favor were many...*it will spur growth in membership.....it's all really pavement preservation anyway....ISSA will have a stronger, more unified, voice.....most of our members do this type of work now, either as contractors or as materials suppliers....*

And the reasons against were many.....*I only do slurry....ISSA will lose its identity....we'll become too diluted.....how are we going to represent two more industries?....ISSA will have to change its name.....too many people on the Board.*

It all came to a head last summer, after the Board digested the responses of the membership to the survey sent out by ISSA's Long Range Planning Committee. In that survey, the members who responded overwhelming supported an expansion. The Board, taking seriously its commitment to act in accordance with the wishes of the membership, approved an expansion plan at its meeting in June 2007. It appointed acting chairmen for the two new disciplines, set out a timeline, and went back home thinking this decision would be easily approved by the membership. And the rest has been reported in every detail in the pages of the *ISSA Report* (see issues 2007 #2, #3, and #4).

ISSA's bylaws provide that changes to the bylaws are to be voted upon by the membership at the Annual Business Meeting. There is also a separate section in the bylaws that alludes to email and facsimile voting. Admittedly, to some, there is a degree of ambiguity here. To me, though, there is no ambiguity as to how bylaws changes are approved, which is by the membership at the annual meeting. The email and facsimile methods have to do with more general questions to the membership, such as *Would you prefer the next convention be in Arizona or Florida? Or Do you approve the new version of the proposed specification?* Until the bylaws are changed for that purpose, ISSA bylaws changes have to be approved by the membership at the Annual Business Meeting.

But I digress.....

In the days leading up to the Annual Business Meeting, it became evident that some amongst us were not excited about this expansion plan and were, in fact, downright opposed to it. Some were opposed for some of the reasons cited above, but others were opposed because they felt the process was flawed, and that all members should have a vote, whether or not they were attending the convention, by fax or email. Some had no problem with expanding to "slurry sealing, micro surfacing, chip seal, and crack treatment" but they didn't like the proposed phrase, "...and other thin bituminous surface treatments."

The Board did not take this opposition lightly, devoting several hours to this subject during its meeting earlier in the week. Standing on precedent, the Board said bylaws changes have always been voted upon by those present at the Annual Business Meeting and this issue should be no different. It was also decided to let the Annual Business Meeting run as long as necessary to

allow everyone to speak, for or against, and to make sure no one left feeling that he did not have an opportunity to present his views.

And run on it did. Countless opinions were expressed, both pro and con. Differences of opinions were evident; even different people from the same member company expressed divergent positions, one for, one against. In the end, the members voted to amend the amendment to read, "Slurry Seal, Micro Surfacing, Chipseal & Crack Treatment" eliminating the "...and other thin bituminous surface treatments."

President Kaiden took a roll call vote by voice, one vote per voting member company in good standing, as Secretary Andrew Crow and I publicly tallied each response.

The final results were 24 companies voting in favor of the expansion, and 4 companies opposed.

Next step is for the new Chipseal and Crack Treatment Committees to continue to define their disciplines to assure that we are all speaking the same language in the directory and on the website, develop guideline specifications, assist in program content for the Slurry Systems Workshop and 2009 Convention, begin thinking about new promotional and education brochures and powerpoints, and identify prospective members. Next step for the Board is to oversee the expansion, all the while making sure ISSA's service to the slurry/micro disciplines maintains an increasing pace.

As time goes by, the subject of a name change for ISSA will find its way onto the agenda, but that will come only after the expansion plan proves that it was the right thing to do. As an aside, let me offer that when I asked the question in the Board meeting, "How many of you right now are involved either as a chipseal/crack treatment contractor or supplier? Raise your hand." Eleven out of twelve persons on the Board raised their hand. So even though the approval of the expansion plan is new, our members' involvement in the chipseal and crack treatment industries is not.

They say that time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself.

Andy Warhol