

## President's Report to April 2007 Board Meeting:

Some occurrences since the last meeting:

- The resignation of the Bulletin editor and the efforts to find guest editors for the July, October, January and possibly the April 2008 Bulletin issues were important events. The guest-editor approach offers AIS valuable time and opportunity, first to provide several individuals with a non-committal "trial run" in the editor's position, and secondly to allow consideration of possible Bulletin content/layout improvements that may be more membership appealing in today's world. Fear not – **nothing** may change (but the name of the editor), however the opportunity for considering approaches that are new and different is there, and that is a good thing.
- Acting on a suggestion that an electronic list of AIS webmasters be of value on many levels, I contacted all RVPs and section leaders asking them to send me the names and email addresses of the webmasters that serve their organization (region, section) as well as any affiliate webmasters that may have come to their attention. Most responses to my request were accompanied by positive comments — some very positive. Only one response so far has voiced a negative opinion. The purpose of my request is to create and distribute a listing of AIS webmasters to AIS webmasters offering them an easy resource for contacting people who are performing like services.
- The action to create a "Webmaster Connection" precipitated an additional suggestion that perhaps the same "Connection" should be created for regions, affiliates and sections newsletter editors. Not a bad idea!
- Recently I received in the mail a notebook containing the minutes of all RVP Board of Counselors' meetings from their beginning at the annual meeting in Denver, CO in 1967 through the annual meeting in Sacramento, CA in 1996. Some time ago this secretary's notebook had been misplaced during a family move and when, only recently, it was found, it was sent directly to me. An illuminating collection of minutes, I believe the notebook has very real AIS historical value. It is my intention that the original notebook be placed in the AIS Library archives. In addition, I have had two copies made of the notebook (about 95 pages). I will give one of the new copies to the current RVP Counselor President to be kept with records of that office. I ask for Board suggestions about the placement of the third copy. This records in this notebook, like many of the old records that detail AIS activities, should be preserved and reviewed from time to time for the perspective they bring to what we consider modern problems. While the approaches and solutions may differ because the times these old records reflect were so different from today, the problems remain amazingly similar!
- To voice an old refrain: I do want Board members -- voting and non -- to continue to (or to begin to) consider with an open mind the active examination and evaluation of AIS annual meetings (spring conventions) with the objective of improving this traditional AIS activity. All aspects of annual meetings -- cost, frequency, duration, judges training, section meetings and garden tours -- should be carefully examined, and other offerings -- for example: the introduction of a wider selection of programs, seminars and workshops -- should receive careful consideration. The world evolves -- we must as well.

Jeanne