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Becoming the Gold Standard

Showcasing growth in all areas of the Association

WAYNE L. GOSS, SR/WA, R/W-NAC



Looking back over my term as President, I can't help but wonder where all the time went. There were so many Association-changing initiatives I was going to lead us through. What about all those ideas that would help us join together and build a better world?

Then the realization strikes. Many (I might even say most) of our initiatives are happening! Together with my partners on the International Executive Committee (IEC), the International Governing Council (IGC), Regions and Chapters around the globe, we all helped to build our Association into a worldwide leader.

Strategic Priorities

While some ideas have been more debated than others, I can say with confidence that the leadership vetted every single one before it was put to a vote among members. Only those that measured up and fully supported our future growth were recommended for consideration. The programs and services approved by our membership have been integrated into IRWA's Strategic Plan. And with a clearly defined set of criteria, we have been moving consistently and confidently toward implementation.

From membership recruitment to employer support programs, our accomplishments have helped position us as the gold standard in the industry. Our Headquarter's staff was charged

with demonstrating growth in all areas, including the number of courses offered, class attendance, online course registrants, as well as conference participation, all while effectively managing the approved budget. And after executing new recruitment and retention strategies, membership is at an all-time high.

In order to streamline our credentialing program, IRWA launched a new online credentialing pathway in January, one that simplifies the entire process. And to enhance the classroom experience for students, IRWA went to work on a more advanced training program for instructors. In January, IRWA unveiled the new "CLIMB" Instructor Development Program to positive reviews (see article on page 21).

A major advance—and one with instantaneous results—was the call to leverage technology to improve IRWA's Member Network and make communications among members easier. In March, IRWA launched a new Higher Logic platform. As a result, we are seeing an ever-increasing number of members using it to share project challenges and information. This serves as a strong foundation as we pursue technological solutions in other areas.

Increasing our global presence is an ongoing priority. By showcasing our organization and its benefits around the globe, we have been able to start new Chapters in other countries while forming important industry alliances. This effort

will be apparent at this summer's inaugural Congress for Global Infrastructure Real Estate, to be held in conjunction with IRWA's Annual International Education Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

The development of a targeted employer support initiative is also underway, ensuring that the benefits of membership are in the hands of employers—who will hopefully respond with more member support.

A Special Acknowledgment

As I think back to the Atlanta Conference when I first joined the IEC, I recall feeling that my leadership service would be a measure of giving back to IRWA. Today I realize how much I actually received in return—from our members, staff and those I met along the way.

I want to thank IRWA Headquarter's staff for doing so much. You guys are great. And to my esteemed colleagues on the IEC, both past and present, who gave so much of themselves to better the Association as a whole, I give my heartfelt thanks. I would also like to extend a special acknowledgment to the IGC, a group of dedicated leaders who serve as a vital reality check, keeping us focused on our true purpose—to serve our members.

I sincerely thank you for allowing me to serve you as your International President. I appreciate your support and look forward to working with many of you in the years to come as we Build a Better World, *Together.* 🌟