



# NEWSLETTER



2008 President's  
Award for Most  
Outstanding  
Chapter



## Proposed Establishment of Sectors and Sector Directors

*Dr. Samantha Robitaille, President of INCOSE, distributed the following message to the chapter leaders throughout INCOSE. Changes to the INCOSE bylaws, as stated in the letter below are being proposed to strengthen the support for the members of INCOSE. The members will be asked to vote on these changes later this year. More information can be found at:*

<http://connect.incose.org/bylaw-change>

Over the next two months, INCOSE members will be asked to vote on a change to our bylaws to enable some organizational changes. It is important that our members understand the proposed changes which are described in more detail below. As part of our overall communications plan, I am therefore writing to ask for your assistance in promulgating two messages to your chapter members within the next two weeks:

1. The importance of members actually voting on this issue, and
2. The benefit to all members, regardless of their geographic location, of this proposal.

The proposed changes are the result of several years of discussion between INCOSE leaders and members across the organization. The primary objectives are to improve the direct influence of chapters on governance at the level of the Board of Directors (BoD) and to increase our ability to handle issues arising from our global growth. The changes address two primary issues:

1. The direct influence of chapters on INCOSE governance was unintentionally removed when the Member Board was formed and the Chapters Committee was dissolved. This left chapters with no direct influence on key decisions affecting them and their members (such as membership fees, legal issues, etc).
2. Groups of chapters frequently require an authorized spokesperson when working with third parties (for example the European Commission or the US Department of Defense) to enable discussion and collaboration; but as of today, we have no clear roles for this.

Since 1998, INCOSE has developed through a wide variety of legal entities representing chapters in different parts of the world, and this trend continues as we grow globally. As a consequence, we need to be better structured to both cope with the legal and practical issues arising from this growth, ensuring that we accommodate local needs and to give both existing and new chapters a direct influence in the decision making process.

Our strategy has evolved through meetings at International Workshops and International Symposiums over the past few years, involving individuals and leaders from many chapters, the Member Board, the Board of Directors and the wider community. At IW2011, the BoD decided to initiate a project to develop a proposed solution. After several iterations and involvement of many individuals and directly affected functions, the following proposal has been developed:

- Establish 3 *Sectors*, each containing chapters with similar needs and status: initially one Sector for the chapters in the Americas; one for the chapters in Europe, Middle East and Africa; and one for chapters in Asia / Pacific;
- Establish positions for 3 *Sector Directors*, each to be elected by the chapter leaders of their Sector. Sector Directors will be full voting BoD members responsible for bringing forward issues of chapters within their Sector to the BoD and collecting the views of their chapter leaders on key decisions to be made by the BoD, as well as acting as a spokesperson on behalf of INCOSE for cross-chapter issues in their Sector. With the appointment of these Sector Directors, the current Member Board BoD positions (Member Board Chair and Co-Chair) will be eliminated;
- Establish a dedicated *Chapter Support Committee*, providing all existing chapter support functions such as the Chapter Circle Awards;
- Establish a dedicated *Member Support Committee*, containing all functions directly supporting individual members, primarily facilitated by the INCOSE Central Office.

This proposal increases the number of directors with primary responsibility for chapters and members from two to three. All other Board of Director positions will remain the same. However, since this proposal affects the way in which some directors are elected, it is necessary to gain approval by the membership of this change.

This represents a simple but critical step which supports our ability to grow and develop our status as a professional organization, improving two-way communications with our increasingly diverse chapters without compromising our service to individual members. The BoD unanimously supported the proposed concept at our meeting in July; and this was reaffirmed through

*(Continued on page 2)*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## October Speaker Meeting

### **A Panel Discussion on the INCOSE Professional Certification Program**

When: Tuesday, October 11, 2011, 5:30 p.m.—7:45 p.m.

Where: Booz Allen Hamilton – LAX Office

Remote sites throughout the Southern California

See page 3 for details

## INCOSE San Diego Chapter

### **Engineering Night on Board the USS Midway Museum**

When: Friday, October 28, 2011 6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Where: San Diego, CA

See page 5 for more details

## Draft Papers for the International Symposium 2012

Due date: Tuesday, November 8, 2011

# SAVE THE DATE

More details to come in upcoming Newsletters

## INCOSE-LA Year End Holiday Party, December

## Conference on Systems Engineering Research 2012

When: March 19-22, 2012

Where: St. Louis, MO

## INCOSE-LA Mini-Conference

When: Saturday, March 31, 2012

Where: Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles

## *Inside This Edition*

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### **For up-to-the-minute event details:**

- ◆ Check future editions of the Newsletter
- ◆ Watch your email for the Reflector
- ◆ Visit the INCOSE-LA website at <http://www.incose-la.org>

*(President's message, Continued from page 1)*

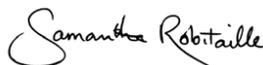
unanimous support to the detailed change proposals at our meeting earlier this week.

The next major step is now the approval of the necessary Bylaws changes by the membership, which will be presented with this year's leadership ballot during October and November. A more detailed timeline is available at the temporary Connect site at <http://connect.incose.org/bylaw-change>, where you will also be able to find an information package consisting of a slide deck explaining the change and its benefits, as well as a summary text that you may wish to send to the members within your chapters, or include in your chapter periodicals. Our September webinar, scheduled for September 28, 2011, will also address the proposal in detail. We encourage all members, but particularly chapter Leaders, to attend the webinar to gain a better understanding of the changes and their significance for our organization.

If you have questions or comments, please use the email address [bylaw-change@incose.org](mailto:bylaw-change@incose.org) to contact the project team. The team is there to support you and would be happy to receive feedback from both chapter Leaders and individual members.

Finally, I want to thank you for your service as a chapter leader. Chapters are an essential part of our organization, and one which I am confident will be able to play an increasing role in shaping our character and direction if the proposed changes are approved.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Samantha Robitaille  
President

## Chapter Strategic Planning Meeting Report

*By Alan Kirschbaum*

Twenty INCOSE-LA Chapter officers, members, and guests devoted a recent Saturday to establish ways to better serve the needs of Chapter. Attendees of the daylong Chapter Strategic Planning Meeting (SPM), held on September 10, 2011 at Booz-Allen Hamilton's El Segundo facility, reviewed progress toward the goals set in January and set course adjustments where necessary. New solutions were developed to grow the Chapter, to promote the value of systems engineering in the wider community, and to shape programs to meet the needs of Los Angeles region INCOSE members. Key topics resolved included confirming that chapter goals established at the beginning of the year in our Strategic Plan are being achieved. Attendees also planned for upcoming Chapter conference, networking, and outreach events. The next quarterly meeting is targeted for mid-January and will include newly elected officer training.

The wide-ranging meeting agenda covered INCOSE-LA

*(Continued on page 4)*

# October Speaker Meeting

## A Panel Discussion on the INCOSE Professional Certification Program

**PRESENTERS:** This meeting will be held in a Panel format. Currently planned moderators/panelists include Dave Walden – Certification Manager for INCOSE, John Clark – provider of certification training, and other systems engineering certified professionals.

### **PARTICULARS:**

**When:** Tuesday, October 11, 2011, 5:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

**Where:** Booz Allen Hamilton — LAX Office

5220 Pacific Concourse Drive

Building 5220 — 2nd. Floor, Suit 200

**Cost:** Members-**FREE**; Non-members-\$10.00

**R.S.V.P. required by October 7, 2011**

*Remote sites and virtual attendance for individual participants to be available*

### **Meeting Agenda:**

5:30 - 6:15 p.m. Registration, networking, refreshments

6:15 - 6:30 p.m. Welcome and announcements

6:30 - 7:45 p.m. Presentation followed by Q&A

Refreshments will be provided at the host site. (Contact remote site contacts for more information regarding parking, refreshments, and other administrivia at their locations.)

**Abstract:** The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the INCOSE certifications and to provide a program update, in addition to information on the process, value, and benefits. The panel of experts and certified systems engineers will lead the discussion and answer questions. The panel will consist of authorities on the INCOSE certification program and a number of current certified systems engineers. The panelists will provide information on the program, offer opinions, and answer questions from the moderator and the audience.

### **Meeting Structure:**

- Brief Overview of INCOSE and its certification program
- Each Panelist to provide response (2 mins max per) to standard question:  
“What motivated you to pursue the INCOSE certification and what, if any benefits have you experienced since receiving your certification?”
- Questions and answers with the audience. Please collect any questions you may on the INCOSE certifications and join us for what is sure to be an interesting discussion.

**Background:** The International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE), founded in 1990, is the world's principal professional organization for systems engineers. With over 7500 members world-wide, its mission is to share, promote, and advance the best of systems engineering.

*From the INCOSE Website:*

“The International Council on Systems Engineering has established a multi-level Professional Certification

Program to provide a formal method for recognizing the knowledge and experience of systems engineers, regardless of where they may be in their career.

Certification is a formal process whereby a community of knowledgeable, experienced, and skilled representatives of an organization, such as INCOSE, provides formal recognition that a person has achieved competency in specific areas (demonstrated by education, experience, and knowledge). Certification differs from licensing in that licenses are permissions granted by a government entity for a person to practice within its regulatory boundaries. Certification also differs from a ‘certificate’ that documents the successful completion of a training or education program.”

INCOSE established its Professional Certification Program in March 2004 to provide a formal method for recognizing the knowledge, education, and experience of systems engineering professionals. Certification through INCOSE formally confirms an individual's qualifications – it is an effective way for others to recognize your systems engineering knowledge and experience. INCOSE's multi-level certification program helps both individuals and organizations break through to the next level, providing a portable and independent internationally-recognized competitive advantage.

### **R.S.V.P.: Please RSVP by Friday, October 7, 2011.**

If you are uncertain whether or not you'll be able to attend, DO make a reservation and indicate that you're uncertain.

R.S.V.P. online at [www.incose-la.org](http://www.incose-la.org). Click on the link for this Speaker Meeting from the “Upcoming Events” section on the home page, and navigate to the web page for this event and click on the link for Registration.

We request that all reservations are made online. This helps to facilitate event registration and planning for our host site and our remote sites. Visitors at JPL and Boeing must register by the R.S.V.P. deadline to provide visitor clearance from site security.

You will be asked to provide your email address, name, title, company, phone number, and membership and citizenship information, and to identify at which site you will be attending.

### **Locations:**

**Host site:** Booz Allen Hamilton, Suite 200, 5220 Pacific Concourse Dr, Los Angeles

The panel and moderator will be at this location. Refreshments will be provided at this site.

**Remote sites:** Gather for networking and tying in virtually. The registration form will identify information on confirmed sites.

- Antelope Valley
- Huntington Beach, The Boeing Company (Refreshments will be provided at this site.)
- Pasadena, JPL
- Santa Barbara, Control Point Corporation

**Virtual Attendance for Individual Participants:** Virtual meeting capability to be available for this event. See the web page for this event on the INCOSE-LA website ([www.incose-la.org](http://www.incose-la.org)) for more information on joining as an individual virtual participant.

*(Strategic Planning Meeting, continued from page 2)*

Chapter programs, operations, and administration. Special focus topics addressed developing student divisions, improving member communication, advancing career opportunities, assisting career development, and shaping the next Chapter conference scheduled for March, 2012.

Led by Chapter President Beth O’Donnell, the group reviewed the Chapter’s accomplishments to date. Thus far, there have been five speaker meetings. There have been two tutorials this year, one on System Modeling Language (SySML)/Object Oriented Systems Engineering Methods and one on Enterprise Engineering. INCOSE-LA has hosted three networking events: two in Manhattan Beach (one of which was a joint tsunami victim fundraiser with National Association of Asian American Professionals) and the third in Pasadena. In addition, there were chapter-hosted networking events at the International Workshop and the International Symposium. Chapter newsletters went out to members each month, and there were a range of other chapter professional events including the successful Conference on Systems Engineering Research.

Not willing to stand on their laurels, the SPM attendees continued to plan activities for the remainder of the year and into 2012. Three more topical meetings are in the works for 2011 including planning now underway to co-host a systems and software mini-symposium.

An additional networking event emphasizing mentorship is being planned, as is a holiday party. Furthermore, the programs and education committee will be creating an on-line member survey to better understand member’s interests in speaker meeting, tutorial, and conference topics. Four networking events are being formulated for next year with a focus on jobs and career opportunities and on professional development.

Two “special focus” topics highlighted the meeting. First, the group got a preview of initial plans for the Chapter’s one-day conference scheduled for March, 2012. Conference chair Mike Wallace announced that Mark Gallo has agreed to assume the role of Technical Program Chair. The organizers have

identified the roles of the other committee chairs and will post the openings on the INCOSE-LA website to advertise the volunteer opportunities for the conference committee. The group also discussed options for conference arrangement and the flexibility to adjust the number of tracks and session formats.

The second special focus topic explored the Chapter’s goal of establishing relationships with one or more student divisions this year. The team, led by Michael Kim and Peter Sedivic, identified local school advocates and potential liaisons. They are now preparing to reach out individually to school advocates. The action team will also develop a student division information briefing kit for the schools’ use.

Significant effort went into understanding trends in membership recruitment and retention at the meeting. Paul Cudney presented an analysis indicative of declining renewals and fewer new members since the beginning of the economic slowdown in 2008. He concluded that new and more effective approaches to building the INCOSE value-proposition and marketing programs are vital to maintain a vibrant organization.

In the area of communication, Mark Gallo described the current status of the INCOSE-LA website in the context of the entire chapter communications media portfolio (INCOSE Connect; Constant Contact; Email Reflector; *Newsletter*). Mark offered to prepare a demo content management system as a proof of concept to provide an example of communications improvement for the Chapter’s evaluation.

Beth O’Donnell reminded all present that elections for 2012 will be held in December 2011. Past-President Roz Lewis will head the Nomination Committee, and the committee will be working in October to identify candidates. Any member interested in standing for election may contact Roz or Beth. Beth also highlighted a number of open volunteer opportunities to support the Chapter.

Requirements analysis is appropriate for the tools used to produce a product as it is for the product itself. Fancy software that does not do the job or that does much more than is needed can become shelf-ware or stale-ware – an expensive embarrassment.  
Are there cases in which “best practices” are “best” only for the practitioner?

**The Board of Directors wishes to welcome the following new members in the Los Angeles Chapter of INCOSE:**

Note: The information listed below is from the member directory and is based upon your initial membership application. If the information is not correct or complete, then please access the member directory (at [www.incose.org](http://www.incose.org)) to update your information.

Name	Title	Company
Lee Beckstrom		Control Point Corporation
Cate Heneghan	Systems Engineer	Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Charles Bilbey	Lead Associate	Booz Allen Hamilton
Robert Lagatree	Principal Systems Engineer	Systems Engineering Solutions
Daniel Dvorak	Systems & Software Engineer	Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Monesh Patel	Senior Director	Medtronic
Philip Matuzic	Assoc. Tech Fellow	The Boeing Company
Andrew Meeker	Research Engineering Manager	Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Corporation

**INCOSE-LA Chapter NEWSLETTER**

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# SAN DIEGO ENGINEERING NIGHT ON BOARD

## THE USS MIDWAY MUSEUM

28 October 2011 6:30 pm – 10 pm

Fundraiser for K-12 STEM\*

activities in the Southern California region

*Hosted by the San Diego Chapter of the International Council on  
Systems Engineering (INCOSE) and the INCOSE Foundation*

**Open to ALL supporters of STEM activities for our schools**

**\$30 ticket price includes:**

- *USS Midway Museum admission*
- *Free docent-led tour*
- *Free flight simulators*
- *Student robotics demonstration*
- *Jet Shop shopping*
- *Free appetizers and one drink coupon*
- *No-host bar*
- *50-50 raffle to support STEM*
- *Networking with your engineering colleagues*



For additional information, to purchase tickets, or to become a sponsor go to:

**<http://www.sdincose.org/midway>**

or contact the SD INCOSE team at **[midway@sdincose.org](mailto:midway@sdincose.org)**

*Hosted by the San Diego Chapter of the International Council on  
Systems Engineering (INCOSE) and the INCOSE Foundation*

**Open to ALL supporters of STEM activities for our schools**

Please note that parking at the USS Midway Museum is limited.

See **<http://www.midway.org/Directions-Parking>**

for information on how to get to the Museum and where to park.

Contributions through the INCOSE Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

\*STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

**INCOSE-LA Chapter    NEWSLETTER**

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# INCOSE-LA Chapter NEWSLETTER

Vol. 9: Issue No. 10 October 2011

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**Return Address:**

**PO Box 10969  
Westminster, CA 92685-0969**

## Forwarding Address Requested

The International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE) is an organization formed to advance the art and science of systems engineering in both the public and private sectors. INCOSE's mission is to advance the state of the art and practice of systems engineering in industry, academia, and government by promoting interdisciplinary, scalable approaches that produce technologically appropriate solutions that meet societal needs.

The Los Angeles Chapter meets several times per year for speaker meetings, and, in addition, sponsors tutorials, mini-conferences and other activities of interest to those in the systems engineering field or related fields.

## 2011 Board of Directors

Elected Officers			Elected At-large Directors		
President	Beth O'Donnell	elizabeth.odonnell@incose.org	Membership	Paul Cudney	paul.cudney@incose.org
Vice-President	John Silvas	silvas_john@bah.com	Programs	Michael Kim	michael.kim@jhuapl.edu
Past President	Rosalind Lewis	rosalind.lewis@aero.org	Systems Engineering Education	Shirley Tseng	shirleytseng@earthlink.com
Secretary	Alan Kirschbaum	aik@roadrunner.com	Ways and Means	Michael Maar	michael.c.maar@boeing.com
Treasurer	Harvey Soldan	harvey.soldan@jpl.nasa.gov	Communications	Edie Ung	edie1121@mac.com
Appointed Positions					
Newsletter Editor	Jorg Largent	largent_atpmd@msn.com	Reflector Manager	Susan Ruth	susan.c.ruth@aero.org
Technical Society Liaison	OPEN		Industrial Relations Manager	Jose Garcia Jr.	jose.s.garcia-jr@boeing.com
Chapter Recognition Manager	Michael Maar	michael.c.maar@boeing.com	Website Technical Manager	Mark Gallo	mark.gallo@incose.org
Professional Networking Chair	Nehal Patel	nehal_p1_patel@raytheon.com	CSER Management Chair	Terry Rector	terry.rector@scientist.com
2012 Mini-Conference Chair	Michael Wallace	m.wallace@ngc.com	Lead Site Coordinator	Anna Warner	annawarner@gmail.com
Rep to the SF Valley Engineer's Council	Stephen Guine	Stephen.Guine@ngc.com			