



# Rick Dove

## Vision

Synergy is a word that has lost its meaning. It is often used to suggest benefit from the mere presence of ingredients, when there is neither recipe nor infrastructure for causing and sustaining a synergistic reaction. Real synergy is an emergent phenomenon, one that fuels itself, somewhat like a nuclear reaction.

The vision I have for INCOSE is one of catalyzed and sustained synergy that results in compelling membership benefit – for members of all kinds and geographic locations. This is not said wishfully, but rather with a passion pursued twice before to success and eager for a new challenge.

The quality of the INCOSE experience for each of us, and the assets we develop for this professional society, are both a function of the depth and breadth of active membership engagement. The percentage of members that attend chapter meetings, from anecdotal inquiry, appears to be on the order of 20% at best. The percentage of members that actively engage in working group projects and activities appears to be considerably less. Not a surprise. Rather an opportunity for valuable improvement.

We are a systems engineering society. This society, as a functional operating entity, should be designed and operated as an engineered system. Typically that begins with understanding requirements. The requirements I am interested in are those that will compel member-valued engagement, attract new members, and produce in-demand INCOSE working-group products and activities. Requirements of this ilk go beyond functional capabilities. These requirements must identify and address the factors that impede and encourage embraceable sustained member engagement.

Working groups and Chapters are the engines of value delivery. Some do better than others, and the better ones could do better. We need to understand membership and leadership engagement motivation, facilitate that engagement with an infrastructure that carries water, and get out of the way. Years of INCOSE Chapter and Working Group leadership experience is marked in my memory more by infrastructure impediment than enablement. We need to discover, understand, socialize, and support embraceable and open operating principles – principles which make interaction with this society an enjoyable and productive experience – principles which guide an infrastructure design that enables and facilitates both discipline and professional development.

Funding more staff and world-class infrastructure designers and developers could help, but that cost requires more income. More income is currently tied to individual and Corporate Advisory Board (CAB) membership dues. Raising dues without raising value runs the risk of counterbalancing attrition. An embraceable infrastructure would increase engagement, in-demand generated product, membership growth, and income. But – how do we close the gap between what is needed and what is affordable?

We *are* systems engineers. We *have* the skills to do this. There *are* compelling value propositions to support the doing of this. What is needed is an appreciation and focus on INCOSE as infrastructure.

If elected, I will pursue, with both experience and passion, the realization of this vision: INCOSE as an infrastructure system – one that enables and facilitates, world wide, the generation of compelling values to individual and organizational membership.

## Biography

Rick Dove has an independent and entrepreneurial background with founder and management experience in all C-level positions, and has dispatched a variety of interim executive problem-solving and program-management assignments in large organizations. He was co-inventor in the '80s of the first deployed electronic postal metering device at Friden/Alcatel, where he led both its initial engineering and subsequent market introduction that established this now ubiquitous technology world-wide. In the late eighties he led the development of the first research agenda for the National Center for Manufacturing Sciences, and organized its collaborative-consortia research working group structure, still in operation today. He was co-PI on the 1991 Lehigh study funded by the US Department of Defense that introduced the concepts of agile systems and

enterprises, and led the subsequent DARPA-funded research during the nineties that established basic system fundamentals for agile systems of all kinds. In this latter capacity, as director of Strategy, he formed and led the industry collaborative working group structure that engaged 250 organizations and some 1000 people in working group activities over several years.

He is CEO/CTO of Paradigm Shift International, an applied research firm specializing in agile systems concepts and education, and leads agile self-organizing system security research and development on US DoD funded projects. Rick is an adjunct professor at Stevens Institute of Technology, where he develops and teaches basic and advanced graduate courses in agile systems and systems engineering.

He is author of *Response Ability – The language, Structure, and Culture of the Agile Enterprise*, and *Value Propositioning – Perception and Misperception in Decision Making*.

Rick joined INCOSE in 2001, has been on the Board of Directors of the INCOSE New Mexico Enchantment Chapter since 2005 and Chapter President in 2015, and founded and chairs the INCOSE working groups for Systems Security Engineering and for Agile Systems and Systems Engineering. He holds a BSEE from Carnegie Mellon University.