

## Jack Stein

Americas Sector Director



### Vision for the Role:

The INCOSE Sector Director position is a 3-year commitment requiring several hundred hours of volunteer time and effort over the 3-year term-of-office. Ideally, an in-coming Sector Director will have considerable direct knowledge and experience in starting, running, and working with INCOSE Chapters, as well as solid working knowledge of INCOSE global operations as a whole. Such knowledge and experience come with years of active engagement with INCOSE groups and activities at the international level, and with years of volunteer service first as an INCOSE Chapter Leader and subsequently as an Assistant Sector Director working with multiple chapters.

A primary responsibility of the Americas Sector Director is to represent all the INCOSE Chapters (currently 45) in the 5 Regions of the Americas Sector, as a voting member on the INCOSE Board of Directors. In this respect the Sector Director's duty is to be the "voice of the chapters" in the envisioning, policy-setting, strategic planning, budgeting, and decision-making performed by INCOSE leaders at the international level. An essential pre-requisite to carrying out this duty is to establish effective communication between the Sector Director, Assistant (and Regional) Directors, and Chapter Leaders. Without good communication, it is not possible to effectively identify and address the needs, goals, issues, and challenges faced by our chapters. Thus, designing and implementing a high-quality communication system should be Priority #1.

INCOSE Chapters around the world are wonderfully unique and reflect the engineering heritage and rich cultural attributes of their geographic territory. However, the chapters in the Americas Sector share a common situation in that our chapters operate under fundamentally different legal, financial and INCOSE organizational structures compared to the nation-based chapters in the EMEA and Asia-Oceania Sectors. In general, our chapters are smaller in size (from a few dozen to several hundred members), are more numerous, and are more closely integrated with (and therefore more dependent on) INCOSE's centralized infrastructure and IT systems when compared to "typical" chapters in the EMEA and Asia-Oceania Sectors. This situation poses a number of challenges.

In many cases Chapter Leadership Teams in the Americas Sector find themselves spread much too thin, and unable to keep up with important basic activities such as communicating with chapter members, bringing on new volunteers, and planning and conducting chapter meetings, events, and workshops. One contributing factor is lack of infrastructure and resources required to establish systems for, and perform the tedious tasks associated with, essential chapter capabilities such as banking, website and IT admin, administration of elections, and chapter reporting and record-keeping. Implementing systems

and infrastructure that free Americas Sector Chapter Leadership Teams from overburdening tedious administrative tasks should be Priority #2.

A proposed Priority #3 is to implement an on-going open Keys to Effective Chapters (KTEC) forum in which chapter leaders and volunteers share best (as well as new and innovative) practices, show each other how to do things, and work collaboratively to solve common problems.

It is my belief that after three 3 years of focused attention and action on the above 3 priorities, it is possible that all the INCOSE Chapters in the Americas Sector could be high performance, healthy, vibrant and growing chapters.

#### Bio:

Jack Stein is a systems engineer with over 30-year experience in the automotive and medical device industries. He joined INCOSE in 2000, and recently celebrated his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an INCOSE member. Jack became active as a volunteer with INCOSE in 2005 after attending his first INCOSE International Symposium, which was held in Rochester, New York, hosted by the INCOSE Finger Lakes Chapter. Since then, Mr. Stein has served in the following INCOSE chapter, regional and sector-related volunteer leadership roles:

- President/President-Elect, INCOSE Michigan Chapter (2006-8)
- Founding Chair, INCOSE Annual Great Lakes Regional Conference (2007 and 2008)
- Project Leader, INCOSE 20<sup>th</sup> Annual International Symposium, Chicago, IL (2010), and Member, INCOSE Events Committee (2009-11)
- INCOSE Director, Member Board Representative, Region IV (elected Nov. 2010)
- Assistant Director, Americas Sector (2011-Present)

In addition to the above INCOSE roles, Mr. Stein has been a member of the INCOSE Risk Management WG since 2006, serving as Co-Chair for a number a years, and served as a member of the INCOSE-PMI Strategic Alliance Team 2012-2019. Jack has also been active with SAE International (Society of Automotive Engineers), first as a member of the Mid-Michigan Section Board and subsequently in association with the Lighting and Functional Safety (ISO 26262) committees, and as member, Secretary and Chair of the SAE Automotive Electronic Systems Reliability Standards Committee. Jack has served as a national technical expert and has worked on a number of international engineering standards for SAE and ISO/IEC.

Mr. Stein was born a U.S. citizen (to Canadian and U.S. parents) in Detroit, MI but moved to Canada with his family in his teenage years. He attended high school and college in Canada, where he earned B.A.Sc. in Electrical/Electronic Engineering and Bachelor of Commerce degrees from the University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

Jack returned to the U.S. in his twenties to work for 20 years as an automotive engineer, traveling extensively and working on various engineering programs that took him to Mexico, South America, Europe and Japan. In the mid-1990s Mr. Stein received a Masters Fellowship Award from Ford Motor Company to study Reliability, Quality and Systems Engineering full time at the University of Arizona, Tucson. In the mid-2000s he transitioned to a career in the medical device industry, working on heart Lung machines (for by-pass surgery) and associated accessory operating room equipment for over a decade. He currently consults and works part-time and independently in a variety of industries.

Mr. Stein is semi-retired and resides in Michigan with his wife Anne and three daughters, two of which are on their own but living nearby. He enjoys swimming, running, and playing music (primarily guitar) for exercise and leisure. He devotes a set portion of his time to non-profit professional association volunteer service (i.e., INCOSE).