

WE HAVE TO GET OVER.....

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We truly have to get over:

- allowing others to go unchallenged when they deem specifications as valueless, intrusive, irrelevant, useless and needless;
- the idea that specifications "just happen--somehow";
- the thought that specification writers just happen--"magically appear", develop, evolve, etc.;
- the idea that CSI is absolute, perfect, flawless;
- the thought that flexibility in specification production is prohibited and bad;
- the impression that all CSI documents are the ultimate, omnipotent and all-inclusive (even as good as they are, they have limitations);
- the idea that CSI need not be dynamic and can sit back, with little self-projection and people will still be attracted and come forth voluntarily;
- the impression of a stodgy, stiff, uncompromising fringe organization--a locked door;
- the thought that CSI represents the past and currently something of little value, little use and "on the way out";
- the continuing idea that CSI may be failing to expand itself but does not need to reach out in any of several new ways;
- the direction that education by CSI is solely for member improvement; the thought that "starting back at square one" is a set back and not an opportunity.
- the idea that CSI is subservient to other professional organizations, and its voice is inconsequential and unimportant;
- the impression that specifications are well represented and adequately addressed in the academic curricula and the current IDP program, so as to promote both the documents, and their writing;

Truth be told--we need to get off the dime!!

We need vision, and an adventurous spirit--a need to seek new horizons; to create a new future for the organization, its chapters and, very importantly--its members; to perpetuate the strong, innovative legacy passed to us since 1948.

The annual ascension of new officers certainly brings new ideas, new agendas, and new thoughts to the fore. The problem is that not all that much can be introduced, analyzed and implemented in a period of one year. Continuity suffers as a result of the annual election. There is no proposal here to change this, but it a factor in what is done, how and when. Putting variant pieces together through continuity is important and most vital to every organization--you simply cannot 'hiccup every year, and shift gears, organizationally. Obviously much relies on staff for the major impetus here, but continual oversight is a necessity.

There may well be a strategic plan in place, and some have called for its review from time to time. Instead of "tweaking" it could be that a long, hard look and revision of that plan is necessary--it appears to need to be opened to new and more ventures. Perhaps smaller goals, more easily achieved, that contribute to the whole of a new movement and direction.

Spring cleaning! A good shaking out! An in-depth organizational and administrative study! Call it what you wish, it certainly seems, from the many comments floating around, that something new, perhaps drastic and wide ranging needs to be done. There appears to be a need for the solicitation, gathering, review and analysis of member comments, ideas, suggestions and thoughts. Often times, grass roots

provide vital and clear vision that somehow is obscured from or remote to the upper level shakers and movers.

At any rate, there is need for more than new faces (who have migrated through the upper echelons with basically the same vision for years) and "a new coat of paint"!

One other thing we have to get over is:

- "we tried that once some time back and it didn't work then, so why take time and money to try it again now?"

Didn't we learn anything? Haven't conditions changed? How can that first try be modified or augmented for today, or is this purely, irrevocably a back-to-square-one failure?