

### Message from the President...

By Robert Johnston

My name is Bob Johnston & I am the current president of our local chapter. I work for the in-house system integration group within 3M Company that provides controls work for most of 3M's plants. The interesting thing is that I got into this line of work by accident and discovered I liked it! I did board level circuit design for embedded systems within 3M until my department was eliminated in 1996 and I lost my job. I was given a time-limited opportunity to look for another job within 3M and found system integration group had an opening. I called and asked if I could send them a resume and I was told "You don't want to work here! We travel at least twenty five percent." I responded that my youngest son was sixteen, he would not miss me, and my wife would prefer that I was employed. They invited me over for an interview and hired me. I had no idea if I would like the work but I knew I was trainable and could learn. Since then, I have specialized in SCADA systems, historians, industrial networking, and connection between the plant floor and the business systems. The fun part of this job is that no two projects are ever the same, we get to work with big interesting machines, and at the end of the project we get to watch the machine do what we programmed it to do. I have been involved with the ISA for the last five years in various positions and became the president this year. By the way, they lied – travel can be as much as sixty percent but I still like it.

### Editor's Notes...

By Peter Baker

Welcome to the first issue of the newly revived Twin Cities ISA newsletter. My name is Peter Baker & I am the editor. Due to significant input from the other board members what I had planned for this issue is going to have to wait.

ED

### Upcoming Events...

By Kurt Nordstrom & Bob Kolas

The September program was a behind the scenes tour of the Basilica Organ of St. Mary's Church in Minneapolis. John Harding, Basilica Maintenance Engineer, gave us some of the history and a look behind the scenes of this amazing pipe organ. Christopher Stroh, Head Organist, demonstrated and played for us.

The October meeting was at Care Fusion Pulmonetic Systems in Plymouth where we learned about mechanical ventilators and toured one of the world's leading ventilator manufacturing facilities. We even saw the just released new Palmtop ventilator that is a groundbreaking only 10 lbs!

The November program is planned for Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. An email notification and details on the TC-ISA website will be available shortly. We break in December, but start up again in 2010 with programs planned for January, February, April and May. The TC-ISA TechFair is our event in March. Please support these programs as they are a valuable Twin Cities ISA Section benefit that takes some planning.

Also remember to thank our generous host companies and presenters for their valuable time which is normally not part of their usual job duties. If you have a great idea for a future program or wish to help plan or host let us know.

Twin Cities ISA Section typically has programs on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month.

### CONTENTS:

- Message from the President
- Editor's Notes
- Upcoming Events
- Education

See WEB site for more info: [www.tc-isa.org](http://www.tc-isa.org)

Comments & submission may be sent to:

[Pbaker@ivyautomation.com](mailto:Pbaker@ivyautomation.com)

**Editors Note:** Editorial assistance provided by the same fellow that writes the bible on the head's of pins. ^\_^

### Regional Report

By Don Frey

I attended the 2009 ISA President's Fall Meeting at the Westin Hotel in Houston on behalf of the Section. Significant time and effort were devoted to trimming costs and expenses and balancing the ISA budget for 2010. All areas of ISA operations have been affected by the significant downturn in the economy worldwide, forcing some dramatic cuts in operations.

- Each member is encouraged to review and update their member profile on the ISA website ([www.isa.org](http://www.isa.org)), clicking on My ISA, then My Record. Review is necessary because of a recent database server migration
- ISA will suffer an approximate \$2 million operating loss for 2009.
- Even after significant cuts in all areas, the 2010 budget forecast shows an approximate \$500 thousand loss.
- Approximately 20 senior staff positions have been eliminated at ISA Headquarters. Layoffs have taken place already.
- *The ISA Directory of Instrumentation* will be available online only.
- *InTech* magazine will be published 6 times per year, with content available electronically on the ISA website at all times.
- ISA Standards will continue to be available to every ISA Member for viewing online. Free downloads will end December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. Starting on January 1<sup>st</sup>, each member will receive a \$100 credit to purchase printed copies of ISA Standards.
- Membership dues will remain at \$100, including membership in 2 Divisions, 1 each from the Automation & Technologies Department and Industries & Sciences Department. More information on Divisions is available on the ISA website ([www.isa.org](http://www.isa.org)).
- The 2010 ISA Show in the fall will be much smaller than previously (about 10,000 square feet), and will take place entirely at the Westin hotel in Houston. The location would likely have been moved from Houston, but a multi-year contract was already in place with the Westin hotel, concluding in 2010. The 2010 Show format will concentrate on technical presentations, and the exhibit will be a much smaller piece of the overall program.

It has been my privilege to represent the ISA Twin Cities Section this past year, and I look forward to doing so again in 2010. Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Don Frey - [donfrey@cloudnet.com](mailto:donfrey@cloudnet.com)

### TECH FAIR NOTES...

By Bob Pickering



**Tech Fair** [www.isatechfair2010.com](http://www.isatechfair2010.com)

**Date & Time:** March 25<sup>th</sup> 2010

**Tech Fair:** 8:30AM - 3:00PM

**Seminars:** 8:30AM – 3:00PM

**Cost:** Tech Fair – No Charge

Seminars: TBA (CEU credit issued)

Exhibitors - \$375

**Location:** Ramada Mall of America

2300 East American Blvd., Bloomington, MN

**Room Rates:** Show nights of 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> \$96/ night

**Contact for More Info:** Mr Bob Pickering, Twin Cities ISA  
VP & Tech Fair Director  
T: 612 859 1224

### Special Message from the Past President...

By Jenny Christie

Hello! Now that my term as section president is over, I have had time to reflect on some things. Like many of you, I suspect, I originally joined ISA because I was going to the expo and the cost to join ISA was about the same as the cost to attend the expo. So, I figured, why not?

What I have found over the last few years is that ISA is so much more than just the expo. And one of the things that makes it "more" is our local section. When I first joined, I didn't even realize that we had a local section. Eventually, however, as I was invited to seminars and plant tours, I began to see the richness and depth that the local section has to offer.

That richness and depth comes from the membership. Our local section is overflowing with interesting people working on exciting projects (that includes you!). However, our section is only as strong as our member involvement. Fortunately, it is easy to get started! Between monthly meetings, educational programs and the ISA Tech Fair, you will find lots of ways to network, grow professionally and have some fun.

We hope to see you at an event soon!

### Education Initiatives

By Andy Mobley

The Twin Cities ISA in conjunction with ISA is pleased to offer four-one-day educational seminars. Locally held sessions offer the following benefits:

- Quality instruction delivered by experts
- Accessible by being provided locally
- Certified CEU/PDU credits offered
- Reasonable cost
- Network with others with similar interests

The following sessions are being offered:

**November 12, 2009 - FG15C\***

Instrumentation Diagrams & Graphics

**January 14, 2009 - EC50C\***

Safety Instrumented Systems

**March 11, 2009 - MT10C\***

Project Management for Automation Engineers

**May 13, 2009 - IC85C\***

Overview of Wireless Technology

\* Course details and/or registration can be made by visiting the ISA website << [www.isa.org](http://www.isa.org) >> and clicking on the "Education and Training" page then follow the links to the course code number given above.

Or contact Andy Mobley at: [awmobley17@yahoo.com](mailto:awmobley17@yahoo.com)

If you are interested in having our section offer other courses in the future, please let me know at the above email address. These courses are an excellent opportunity to further your professional career for a nominal cost.

**The Last Word...** (Please respond with your comments to the Editor)

- A BBS I am a member of has recently had a lot of activity surrounding the Cap & Trade green house gas initiative of the current administration.. Any thoughts?
- Anyone who has seen H.G.Wells The Time Machine may see parallels as we increasingly hurtle down the same path. Where do you see the future taking us with regards to technology