President's Message

By Jason Ferris

It was great to see many of our members participating in the Spring Technical Meeting and Strategic Planning Committee Meeting held in April in Atlanta. Advancing our technical presence is an important mission for the Fluid Sealing Association, and I was pleased to see our progress.

The Strategic Planning Committee includes current board members as well as committee chairs, and is intended to review, develop, and implement long-term strategies for the sustainability and growth of our organization. We meet annually at the Spring Technical Meeting. Previously, we have worked to develop a review of our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats as an organization. A number of actions and initiatives have emerged from that review. As one priority, we need to continue to recruit new members to the organization. To that end, I'm pleased to share that UTEX Industries, Inc. was recently approved as a new member, with membership in the Compression Packing Division. Please join me in welcoming them and helping them get engaged in our organization.

Two major initiatives also emerged from our discussions – first, to establish an Elastomeric and Polymeric Seals Division, in which several of our current members have expressed interest. Our stretch goal would be to gather a critical mass of potential members and hold a formation meeting during our annual meeting this fall.

The second initiative is to explore a "Sponsors" category of membership. This could be an effective means to allow organizations with an interest in the Fluid Sealing Association and its membership to participate in our meetings and help enrich our meeting experience. I will keep the Association updated on the progress of these initiatives as the year progresses.

Additionally, our Strategic Planning Committee re-affirmed two key areas of ongoing focus: the Government and Regulatory Affairs Committee, and Technical Education and Leadership. Both of these are ways that the Fluid Sealing Association creates value for members and for our customers as well, by advocating for our industry with government entities and by helping build knowledge on the use of sealing devices.

If you haven't already, please mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting to be held at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Vancouver, BC, Canada on October 28-30. I'm looking forward to a great meeting in an exciting location!

Finally, please stay tuned for the launch of our updated FluidSealing.com website – we reviewed the website again during our spring meeting, and I'm convinced it will be a great improvement.

Thank you for all that you do to support the Fluid Sealing Association!

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