President's Message

By Jason Ferris

It feels like the New Year just happened yesterday, yet it has already been a busy couple of months to start 2026. I've participated in a number of committee and board meetings over the recent few weeks, and I'm pleased with the progress our organization is making.

Recently at our January Board of Directors meeting, we reviewed detailed feedback from our Annual Meeting survey. The meeting was received very positively. Division meetings were ranked as the most highly valued agenda item, followed closely by our guest speakers and Government and Regulatory Affairs Committee updates. The board agreed that we will continue to emphasize the importance of our divisions. To support this, I encourage all members to participate and contribute to divisional activities and bring newer generations to the table to advance our mission. We also agreed that we will work closely with the Programs Committee to ensure that we have an engaging slate of speakers at our annual meetings. I'm happy to share that we have finalized a contract for our Annual Meeting to be held at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Vancouver, BC, Canada October 28-30, 2026 – please pencil it into your calendars and look for formal invitations to come out later this year.

The Government and Regulatory Affairs Committee has been particularly busy recently. One of the major areas of activity has been coalition letters to various government entities regarding PFAS regulations, typically through the American Alliance for Innovation (AAI) led by the American Chemistry Council, as well as through the US Chamber of Commerce. State governments have been active in pursuing PFAS-related legislation, and the FSA takes a strong interest in ensuring our members' viewpoint is shared and understood. Our leadership team reviews the proposed letters in the context of the FSA's position on PFAS and ensures that it aligns with our positions and product scope prior to signing on. Since the beginning of the year, we have joined letters to the governments of Maryland, Indiana, and New Mexico. I encourage our members to attend and keep up with our Government and Regulatory Affairs Committee to stay abreast of the action.

Our spring technical meeting is coming up soon, held at the Westin Atlanta Airport on April 22-23, 2026. The agenda includes meetings for the Mechanical Seals, Compression Packing, and Gasket division technical committees. Please join us and help support the important technical activities of these divisions. The deadline to register is March 27, 2026. The Strategic Planning Committee of the Board will also be meeting to discuss and update our priorities for the future – I'll share some updates on those activities in my next newsletter.

Finally, I participated in a preview of our updated FluidSealing.com website with the Marketing Committee recently. I'm very excited for you all to see our new look and improved functionality when the website formally launches in the coming weeks – please watch for the announcement and be sure to check it out.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Spring Meeting!