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Call For Content

We request contributions from all societies and individuals about important events, changes in the law in your country or region, conferences, annual meetings, board changes and the like from your society. You can submit articles or announcements to the editor or use the form on the website at the following address: www.lesi.org/les-societies/les-global-news/submission-form.

Deadlines: January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15

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Acknowledging The Year, Looking To The Future

By *Kevin Nachtrab*,
President, *LES International*



This marks my final message to the LES Membership as President. It has been a fine year, one filled with much work and travel but also one that has been marked with much satisfaction and pleasure at seeing the LES Community acting as a real community.

The past year has seen great sorrow within the LES Community. The deaths of Akira Mifune, a distinguished Past President of LESI, Anna Szafruga, President of LES Poland, Jarmila Traplova, Past President of LES Czech Republic and Barbara Powell, wife of Stephen Powell, a former LESI Vice-President and a Past President of LES Britain & Ireland have deeply affected us all. And yet, we can all be proud of the strength of the reaction and support that the entire LES Community extended to their friends and families and to the friends and families of all other members of our Community who passed on in the last year.

The past year also saw great joy within the LESI Community. At our Annual Meeting in the beautiful city of Rio de Janeiro, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the founding of LES International in the finest and perhaps most appropriate of all styles. While many of us may have been fatigued from the long road to Rio, we somehow found ourselves invigorated just by being there. Perhaps it was the city, perhaps it was the weather or perhaps it was just meeting and greeting old friends again, but no one left disappointed.

Whether it was a time of sorrow or a time of joy, what was consistent throughout the year was the deep sense of community and dedication displayed by our membership. And it is this sense of community and dedication that should give all of us the greatest sense of pride in our organization and hope for its continuing success in the future.

In the past year, I tried to bring more and more transparency to LESI's operations and decision-making processes, so that we can remain open and inclusive. I have also tried to institute small projects in the hope that they will help form a basis for the future of LES:

- The establishment of a nascent LESI Mentoring Program to assist young and new LES members in understanding and getting the most of what LES has to offer, so that they want to stay members and play a larger role in the organization;
- The establishment of a Corporate Advisory Board to assist us in insuring that LES remains responsive to the needs of industry, so that industry will see the value in permitting its members to not just join, but to also actively participate in LESI activities;
- The establishment of the LESI Academy tasked with revamping and

further developing the LESI Education programs to fully bring them in line with the latest “Best Practices” in the Education field and to make them more effective, so as to provide better educational programs for those wishing to make licensing and technology transfer their vocation;

- The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with ZhongNan University in Wuhan, China, to extend our educational offerings and to promote LES and the CLP in China; and
- The establishment of guidelines and best practices for outreach programs to better educate the business and scientific communities, as well as the general public, to make them more aware of the profession and the benefits it brings and various initiatives to digitalize and modernize our communications.

While the eventual success or not of these projects will depend upon others, the seeds have nonetheless been planted and I am confident that the LES Community will be able to nurture them until they can bear fruit.

And now we look to Philadelphia, where we are about to turn yet another Chapter in the history of LESI, with a new President taking the helm pursuing new goals and ambitions. But in doing so, I am certain that we will not forget where we came from and will continue to acknowledge our rich past while welcoming the future with open arms. For me, this is personally poignant in that Philadelphia is the city where I started my University years, which resulted in my entering the licensing profession and culminated in my Presidency. Now it will be the same city where I end my term as LESI President making a somewhat fitting circle in my professional life.

So it is that I leave the Presidency of LES International: a dynamic community of approximately 11,000 professionals from over 100 countries around the globe who are grouped into 32 member societies and the leading professional organization for the global IP and technology licensing community. It has been my pleasure and my honor to have served. To everyone who made it possible and to everyone who assisted me, the Delegates and Board of LESI, LESI and its Member Societies and, most importantly of all, the LES Community: I say thank you.

Forty years young and counting. With the wisdom of our experience coupled with the energy of our youth, the possibilities are unlimited. In the next forty years, our members worldwide can look forward to LESI realizing its full potential for their benefit, for the benefit of their profession and for the benefit of the communities in which they live. ■

LES China Invites You To...

The 4th LES Asia Pacific Regional Conference

Hangzhou, China

October 15-17, 2013 is fast approaching. Registration is still open.

Great efforts have been made to guarantee an excellent opportunity for learning, expressing and exchanging ideas, networking with fellow colleagues and experiencing the specialities of China. For details, visit www.leschina.cn or contact the secretariat of LES China by e-mail at fengyb@ccpit-patent.com.cn.



Been To Our Website Lately?

By Larry Plonsker, Editor

Maneuvering around our website, www.lesi.org, is mostly self explanatory. The area that you may not have spent any time with is *About LESI* (last tab in the tan menu bar). The drop down menu gives you a list of choices from Website Welcome to Resources to Board Documents. Click on any subject in the menu and you will also get a detailed panel of what’s available in the entire area. Everything you always wanted to know about our Society is there, well maybe not everything but most. Take a look and get acquainted with how our Society runs. ■

LESI Knowledge Management

The LESI Knowledge Management Initiative is in full swing. This initiative was pioneered by Gary Keller, VP Knowledge Management Ad Hoc Committee under the leadership of LESI President Kevin Nachtrab to help collect and archive our institutional memory and collaborate. The goal is to store key files, documents, and photos relating to governance, events, and programs. It uses the popular DropBox storage system. Recently LES Brasil uploaded 4,000 photos from its successful conference.

Best of all, it is easy for Societies to participate. You can merely mail your key files to knowledge-management@lesi.org and the Administrative office will help archive.

For more information please contact either Chris Katopis, LESI Executive Director, or Gary Keller. ■