

## ESTA Directions December 2002

*by Mike Wood*

ESTA's non-electronic voting system operated smoothly and, as you may have seen in *Essentials*, the 2003 Board of Directors election results are in. Congratulations on their re-election are due to Mark West (Downhome Productions), Affiliate Vice President and Rick Rudolph (Stage Equipment & Lighting, Inc.), Dealer Director. New faces on the Board will be Fred Mikeska, (Creative Stage Lighting Co.) elected as Manufacturer Director and Greg Meeh (Jauchem and Meeh) elected as Affiliate Director.

We had some bad news in that Beverly Inglesby has had to step down from the Board because of an employment change. Beverly will be sorely missed, although she was new to the industry Beverly had a great deal of experience in Trade Associations and not-for-profit organizations which was incredibly helpful to the rest of us. ESTA owes her a debt of thanks for those efforts and we wish her every success in the future. This left the Board with a gap to fill and Cindi Manning (Vincent Lighting Systems) has been appointed to fill the Dealer Vice President position. Last but not least Patrick O'Rourke of Big Apple Lights has been appointed to fill the remaining two years of Cindi's previously held position of Dealer Director.

By the time you read this issue of Protocol you will have received your ESTA Membership renewal in the mail. ESTA is heavily reliant on membership dues as a source of income to drive all the programs so please take the time to make sure the invoice isn't still sitting in your in tray and pass it through for payment. Don't let the date slip by. You'll also see a check box on the form for donations to the TSP – please check this box and make what donation you can. The TSP continues to go from strength to strength with a number of new standards issued this year and something over 300 members and individuals now participate in this program to improve safety and interoperability throughout the industry to all our benefits. Remember too that the TSP doesn't just write standards – this year, for example, saw the introduction of ESTA's Fog Testing Program which is a spin-off of work done in the TSP. This program provides a mechanism and guidelines for theatres and other public entertainment spaces to ensure that they are using atmospheric effects correctly and responsibly. The TSP has also taken an active role in the ongoing Mercury debate – ban or recycle – which is raging through many States right now. The TSP needs your donations to survive and carry on this work so please, take a look at what the TSP has done and is doing and support it.

I hope you've all seen and participated in the on-line surveys run by the Personnel Certification program. These surveys are key to defining the next steps in this program and where the major needs lie. Special thanks go to Chris Kaiser and Tim Hansen for pushing this feasibility study forward. As with everything ESTA does it's those extra efforts put in by some special individuals that make the various programs successes or failures.

Talking of surveys you'll have seen another on trade shows. ESTA has been working with Primedia to put together a survey polling exhibitors on what's good and what's bad about the LDI show. I'm sure everyone had comments to make on this – it's a key part of our year and very important to many of us. As an LDI sponsor ESTA has a responsibility to ensure the show is a positive experience for its members and this is one way we can help Primedia achieve that goal.

I hope you all had a good holiday season and here's hoping for a strong 2003.