

DSI President Message 3
(October 2018)

Dear Colleagues:

I write again to provide you with an update on all that has transpired since my July 2018 communique. Much progress has been made, with both good news and bad news.

Let's start with the **bad news** . . .

1. **Thank you and best wishes to Yolanda Matthews**

Yolanda Matthews who joined the Home Office when it first moved to Houston resigned recently. She had been a valuable member of our DSI family, had anchored the Home Office during a critical time period before Vivian Landrum joined DSI as our current Executive Director, and will be remembered for her outgoing personality. Her resignation is a great loss to us but we wish her and her family the best. In the meantime, Vivian has kept the Home Office (and the Board) on track.

2. **Appointment of a DSI Caretaker Board for APDSI**

APDSI is the first international region established by DSI and, as such, it is with much regret that DSI had to remove the recent APDSI Board of Directors and replace it with a caretaker Board. This decision was taken after repeated urgings for APDSI to ensure that its Board members maintain current membership in DSI.

At the July APDSI meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, I was saddened to note that about 50% of the APDSI Board members did not attend. Of those who did, only a handful were members of DSI. Indeed, of the 21 APDSI Board of Directors, only eight were members in good standing with DSI. The APDSI Board was given 30 days to remedy the situation and duly informed that failure to renew their DSI membership sends a signal of disinterest in being affiliated with DSI and APDSI. Sadly, after the 30 days deadline and with no remedial action, DSI had no choice but to disband the APDSI Board on August 21, 2018.

Please allow me to emphasize that that APDSI **has not been dissolved but, rather, will be under "new management"**; a 5-member caretaker Board is being appointed by DSI to oversee APDSI business and to support APDSI 2019. The five-member caretaker Board includes:

- Professor Tritos Laosirihongthong (Thammasat University, THAILAND), most recent APDSI President and APDSI 2018 Conference Chair, Co-Chair of APDSI Caretaker Board
- Professor Don Kerr (University of the Sunshine Coast, AUSTRALIA), most recent APDSI President Elect and APDSI 2019 Conference Chair, Co-Chair of APDSI Caretaker Board
- Professor Jan Hartley (Bowling Green State University, USA), President Elect, DSI
- Professor Norma Harrison (Macquarie Graduate School of Management, AUSTRALIA), Past President, DSI and APDSI
- Professor Yan Dong (University of South Carolina, USA)

And, now the **good news** . . .

3. Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

On July 27, 2018, Jeet Gupta, Immediate Past President, announced the results of the voting in regards to the Articles of Incorporation and to the Bylaws of DSI. I am pleased to inform you that the many years of efforts by multiple Board of Directors of DSI to streamline, clarify, and correct these documents have come to fruition. 80.5% of those who cast their votes ratified the revised Articles of Incorporation that has been filed with the State of Georgia; 90.6% of those who cast their votes ratified the substitution of the revised Bylaws document for the two antiquated Constitution and Bylaws documents. The revised Bylaws for DSI can be accessed on the DSI Home Page at <https://decisionssciences.org/discover-dsi/governance/constitution-and-by-laws/>.

4. New Governance Documents for US-Based Regions

Now that DSI has new Bylaws, we can begin to move forward to replace the antiquated Constitution and Bylaws documents for regions, since these were based on the old DSI Constitution and Bylaws. The immediate thrust is to work first on the US-based regions because these are legally under the same 501(c)(3) umbrella for DSI. The Board of DSI has been working on a standard template for a single “Charter” document that can be adapted by US-based regions to account for regional differences. Once this is complete, we will then work with the international regions on their governance documents.

5. DSI Policies and Procedures

In addition, with new DSI Bylaws in place, we have also begun to work on the Policies and Procedures Manual. This manual is a Board-approved set of policies and procedures governing the management of DSI in its totality, as well as its activities.

For those of you who had been on the Board, you may recall that this is another voluminous, repetitive, 201-pages manual. In 2015 and 2017, the DSI Boards attempted to remove redundancies and managed to shrink the document from 201 to approximately 30 pages. Now, it is time to revisit the manual and to align existing and propose new policies and procedures to be consistent with the new DSI Bylaws. I hope to have more to report early next year.

6. “A Community of Scholars, Educators, and Problem-Solvers” Tagline

Six different DSI logo designs with the suggested tagline above have been received at the Home Office. The Board of DSI has selected two for members to consider (please see the October Decision Line issue for more details).

At the 2018 Annual Meeting and Conference of DSI in Chicago, IL, members will get a chance to vote for one of these two logos. FYI, everyone who votes will be entered into a drawing with two prize giveaways – an Apple iPad and a \$100 Starbucks gift card. Two people in attendance at the Monday, November 19, 2018, Annual Luncheon Hosted by the Fellows, will be randomly

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selected to win the prizes. Just to emphasize . . . you have to be physically present at the Annual Luncheon Hosted by the Fellows to win . . . no proxies!

7. The 2018 Annual Meeting and Conference of DSI

The 2018 Annual Meeting and Conference of DSI will soon be upon us. I refer you to our DSI website to find out more about all that has been planned for our gathering at the Hilton Chicago in November, including the plant visit to Amcor. More importantly, plans to inaugurate and select a winner for the “Regional Best Paper Presentation at DSI Annual Conference” Competition and to honor a DSI member for the “DSI Lifetime Distinguished Educator Award” are being finalized. We look forward to proudly debuting these new recognitions.

As of Monday, September 24, 2018, the Home Office reports that 1035 individuals have registered for the 2018 Annual Meeting and Conference of DSI. Many of you took advantage of registering before the early deadline passed on September 14, 2018 . . . congratulations! For those of you who have yet to register, please remember that registration rates go up again after October 29, 2018.

Finally, for all of you registered for Chicago, please be on the lookout for a quick survey in late October-early November asking you to confirm your attendance at the various social events (included in your registration fee). By doing a better job of forecasting attendance, the Home Office will be able to optimize allocation of the events budget so that events that are well attended can have better gastronomic options!

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Chicago!

*Sincerely,
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2018-2019 DSI President
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