

President's Message

August 2014

The President's Message isn't here because we don't have one.

To be clear, it isn't just the Message that we don't have, but it is also a President that we don't have!

Shortly before the scheduled July Meeting, Joe Orrico III, WB6HRO, informed the balance of the Officers that he was resigning effective immediately because of family health issues, to which he needed to dedicate his full time. We were very sad to see Joe leave this position but we thanked him for his service to the Association and wished him and his family the best. Unfortunately, we were not prepared for this event and therefore the 3rd Quarter General Meeting normally held in July had to be rescheduled for August 16th.

Vice President Fred Bongard, W6JLL, has arranged for a meeting location and will step in to fill the immediate administrative duties, but because of his interest in continuing to serve on the Coordination Board, and his otherwise very busy schedule playing doctor and attorney on alternate days (sometimes both on the same day), he will not accept the President's position.

We therefore are actively looking for a qualified member to take the lead of the Association. There will be a special election to fill the seat of President at the August meeting. If you are interested in accepting these responsibilities for the balance of this year, and maybe longer, please make sure you are at the meeting and make your wishes known. Everyone please put on your thinking cap and help find us a new President.

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The task of writing to tell you of this situation and inviting you to consider participating was pushed down to your lowly Treasurer. That also meant I was the only one available to publish this Newsletter. Having just attended the first Coordination Board meeting in over a year my Coordination Board Secretary work load was big enough, and getting this done has taken a back seat. I have published many of the SMA Newsletters over the years, but when you have to do it all by yourself it goes faster if you make use of some templates. When I went looking for a President's Message template I was surprised to find that the last President's Message I wrote was 14 years ago. At that time I had served as President of this group for over 13 years and decided that we needed some fresh leadership blood.

When I stepped down from the President's position I took over as Treasurer, and shortly thereafter accepted a position on the Coordination Board ending up as the Coordination Board Secretary. During this same period I served two years on the Tasma Board of Directors helping bring that organization back to life, and I continued my responsibilities as Internet Services Manager for both of the organizations as we expanded into the Internet world. When the NFCC came along I even accepted the job of being our representative.

About 4 years ago, still holding all of these jobs, I notified the Coordination Board that I wanted someone else to assume the Board Secretary position. No one was ever willing to step up and take the job, and as most of you know the primary result has been an inactive Board. I can not continue to fill all of these positions and those of you who value the Association need to begin to accept some responsibility. I have been an active member and leader of the SMA for over 30 years, and it can't continue forever.