

A WELCOME TO I.P.P.S. MEMBERS®

Dan Studebaker

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Good morning friends. I'm Dan Studebaker serving as your President this year. It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the 51st Annual Meeting of the Eastern Region, North America of I.P.P.S. here in Lexington, Kentucky.

I hope those who attended the pre-conference tour yesterday had as enjoyable a time as myself on such a glorious day.

First order of business is to recognize some fellow members who have invested themselves and a tremendous amount of time organizing this informative program that we will be enjoying the next 3 days.

First and foremost is our Executive Secretary/Treasurer, Margot Bridgen.

Secondly, The First Vice-President and Program Chair, Richard Bir.

Thirdly, The Second Vice-President and Poster Chair, Jim Johnson.

Lastly, The Local Site Committee who have organized and formulated the inner workings of this program in Lexington. They are: Bob McNeil, Chairman; Bob Geneve; Winston Dunwell; Paul Cappiello; Brian Roach; Steve Foltz; and Tony Nold. Let's all give them a hearty round of appreciation for their efforts.

I would also like to recognize Charles Heuser, our Editor, and the rest of your Board of Directors who help to shape and direct our Society and who have not been mentioned. They are: Tom Intven, Steve Castorani, Ron Kujawski, Gary Knosher, Brian Maynard, and Past President Dale Deppe.

There are some changes to the printed program due to last minute changes resulting from the extraordinary events of the last 3 weeks. The moderators will announce the changes as they arise; most are on the program this morning.

We have all been through an unprecedented event in this nations history on September 11th. We have been moved, touched, and changed in innumerable ways knowing that most of the whole world has shared our grief and pain. We live in a new world today, a new consciousness as a result of this watershed event. How we respond individually and as a nation to this sacred wound upon our country will be a telling definitive chapter in the story that we are writing for the future of this world. We will eventually learn the names of over 2000 souls who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 at the World Trade Center. They include fellow citizens and so many from nations around the world and our fellow firefighters and policemen who died trying to save them.

I have the name of one member of our Society who has passed away in the past year, Peter Girard of East Geneva, Ohio.

I invite you to stand now and join me in a moment of silent prayer giving thanks for their lives, their sacrifice, and asking for wisdom, guidance, and healing for our blessed nation, especially the families who mourn their loved ones lost.

Thank you all.