

Stephen Thomas

Stephen Thomas: ChOHSP, CFSIA, FRMIA, CFIOSH(UK), Reg OSHC(UK), EurOHSM, MASSP(US).

As an experienced work health and safety professional with substantial board experience, I would be grateful for your support and vote for election to the SIA Board of Directors. So that you can make an informed decision regarding my capacity to act as an effective board member, I offer the following for your consideration:



My professional experience and qualifications:

- 30 years' experience as a WHS&IM and Risk Management Professional.
- Chartered Generalist OHS Professional.
- University education in Public Health & WHS, Education, Social Science and Safety System Auditing. I have also completed a range of other professional & vocational training courses.
- Key relevant experience in corporate governance, general management, WHS management, corporate risk management and self-insurance.

My board and experience:

I have a comprehensive understanding of corporate governance principles applicable to boards and have been a successful board member as follows:

- 19 years' experience on various boards including:
 - The Safety Institute of Australia.
 - Risk Management Institution of Australasia.
 - Self-Insurers of SA.
 - SA Registered Employers Group.
 - Health Consumers Alliance of SA.
 - Australian Volunteer Coast Guard.
 - University of Adelaide Post Graduate Student's Association

My previous SIA service:

- 1994 – 1998 SA Branch Education Team Leader
 - Managed a very successful seminar program.
- 2005 - 2007 SA Branch President
 - Reinvigorated the SA Branch and increased membership.
- 2007 - 2012 SA Branch Committee
 - Various roles.
- 2010 - 2011 National Secretary
 - Assisted in the transfer of the SIA to a Company structure.
- 2011 – 2013 Director
 - Lobbied strongly for professional certification, improved strategic planning, encouraged improved financial management and accountability.
- 2015 - 2017 Member College of Fellows Executive
 - Assisted in a College review which resulted in its restructuring to ensure greater accountability and effectiveness.
- 2015 - 2017 Chair College of Fellows Standards Development Committee.
 - Established the Standards Development Portfolio.

My current SIA service:

- 1993 - present Member of the SIA.
- 2011 - present Representative on Standards Australia Nanotechnology Committee. Also, EHS Work Group Coordinator.
- 2011- present Representative on Safework Australia Nanotechnology Measurement Reference Group.

(Stephen Thomas, Page 2)

- 2012 -present Australian delegate to the International Standards Organisation (ISO), Nanotechnologies Technical Committee and EHS Working Group Coordinator.
- 2012-present Australian delegate to the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), Nanoelectronics Committee and International EHS Liaison Office.

My perspective on the SIA:

In my opinion, the SIA is still struggling to reach its full potential as a growth oriented, dynamic, influential and profession building organisation. While the SIA has improved its financial standing and operational efficiency in recent years, there is still in my view, insufficient focus to increase membership or member and external stakeholder engagement, satisfaction and confidence. There is also much more work to be done to strengthen our Profession as a credible source of information, support and education for employers, employees and the general community.

There are approximately 25,000 WHS Professionals in Australia, some of whom are members of the SIA however, the majority are not. I am therefore concerned that membership continues to languish in the 4,000s and has been at this level for a long time despite a Strategic Plan being in place. In my view, it has not been fully translated into effective action to grow our organisation in size, status or capacity to influence.

Also in my view, the SIAs brand is still not well recognized and in any case is outdated and does not reflect what the organisation exists for. Additionally, influence with government regulators, employers and employees continues to be limited and sporadic and the professional status of our members is still quite low in comparison to many other professions.

My Vision to strengthen and increase the credibility of the SIA:

I believe the SIA will become a more effective organisation if it:


- Modernises its brand and links it to a strong marketing campaign.
- Employs strategies to develop and strengthen the WHS Profession so that it is better prepared to be a positive influence throughout the work and wider community.
- Secures income streams in addition to membership fees, to invest in new value-added member services.
- Ensures adequate funding and other resources to support activities such as critical standards development, evidence based research, professional development opportunities, publications development and regular discussions with industry and government.
- Develops and implements a strategy for sustained membership growth.
- Develops a clearer and more effective governance and management accountability framework.
- Ensures improved Board functioning, transparency and accountability.
- Ensures more regular reporting to members, regarding progress against the agreed Strategic Plan and budget.
- Ensures there is structured support for those wishing to further develop professional practice skills.
- Develops a more customer focussed approach to all existing and potential new members.

Should I receive your support and be elected to the Board, I will be focussed on ensuring that the SIA delivers all of these things.

If you would like to discuss my nomination I can be contacted at:

Mobile: 0433242814

Email: innovohs@bigpond.com

Also see me at 

Thankyou
Stephen