



From the President



Inspiration

As an old saying goes, with every challenge there is opportunity. It's an inspirational perspective most of us appreciate, as in "the glass is always half full."

We find ourselves as a nation and as a community, especially today, looking for inspiration and leadership. Many businesses, financial markets and investment portfolios are feeling the strain. As the future unfolds, Skålleagues around the world are likely facing challenging waters ahead.

Optimistic none-the-less, we will chart our next course to a better place. After all, survival is necessary to live and love another day. Funny thing about journeys, our intended destination depends on people, events, conditions and access we can't always see or anticipate. A sense of timing therefore must play a key role.

According to Webster's definition, to inspire is to suggest, be the motivating but unnamed power behind (something or someone). Sound familiar? It should. I've witnessed those qualities in you.

Inspiration encourages creativity, making the impossible seem possible. It often challenges existing norms and perception, even within ourselves. Inspiration comes from a quiet confidence within, one that sees through the challenge to the possibility. That said, imagine the sheer courage it takes to share that idea or inspiration with another. Imagine seeing that characteristic survive in someone under duress!

Keep these thoughts in mind as survivors from hurricane Ike in Texas and Louisiana share their experience and perspective. Look for stories of survival, courage, leadership and encouragement. Be inspired by those thankful and confident of better days to come.

Skålleagues appreciate and promote courage, conviction and inspiration, among other great qualities, in those we meet. We encourage by example, listening and guiding others to believe that their glass is always half full!

Join me as the busy fall and holiday season approaches and remember to appreciate your good fortune. Share your enthusiasm with another and live life to the fullest. SKÅL!

Ron W. Silveira
President, SKÅL International Orlando

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Please RSVP responsibly...

No Shows aren't good for hotels, or for Skål!

Since all of us are in the tourism business, we should understand that No Shows are not good for business.

Skål Orlando operates on a very tight budget, and your board works hard to assure that we act as good stewards of the clubs funds. In order to assure that we do not pay for meals not received, we ask that members have both the courtesy to RSVP if attending the monthly dinners and likewise the courtesy to cancel their reservation prior to the event if you, or your guest(s), have a conflict and cannot attend.

While active members are pre-paid, we will start billing for No Show guests and lifetime members that are to pay-at-the-door. We ask that active members also cancel in advance, as just five No Shows can cost the club almost \$250 in one evening.

Likewise, please help us plan our events better by sending in your RSVP at least a week prior to the event. Many of our venues are asking for a 48-72 hour cut-off prior to the event for a guarantee. We have some great events coming up in the last three months of this year and look forward to seeing you there...with an RSVP in advance, of course.



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Skål International EcoTourism Awards

Skål is the largest organization of travel and tourism professionals in the world, embracing all sectors of the tourism industry from hoteliers to travel agents, to airlines, tourism media, tourism students and similar. With 20,000 members, Skål is active in 90 countries and in almost 500 locations worldwide.

Skål International is an Affiliate Member of the United Nations World Tourism Organization, whose mission is to promote the development of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism. Skål International in line with this vision and following the United Nations declaration of 2002 as the Year of Ecotourism and the Mountains, launched the Ecotourism Awards in the same year and the first awards were presented during the World Congress in Cairns in 2002.

Skål, as an international organization of industry leaders, is a powerful force in the travel and tourism industry to initiate

change and encourage the conservation of the environment in order to promote tourism and travel. The awards presented on these grounds, while highlighting best practices in tourism around the world, also serve the purpose of acquainting the world with this new concept that puts emphasis on the importance of the interaction of the physical, cultural and social environment, the traveler's responsibility, and the need for active community participation for ecotourism.

Skål values sustainable development in tourism as the key to the industry's future success, and considers ecotourism is but one area of the various components of sustainable development.

For more information about the Skål Eco Tourism Awards visit www.skal.org.



Skål Orlando hosts Region IV Summer Congress

Greetings, fellow Skålleagues!

For those who attended the annual Region IV Summer Congress hosted by Skål Orlando, August 25-27, along with the many sponsors who contributed to a successful weekend, I want to thank you all for your support!

Between the golf event, accommodations and the Saturday evening banquet hosted by Falcon's Fire and the Caribe Royale respectively, congratulations to fellow Skålleagues, Jody Seifert and Philippe de Leonardis for a job well done!

Kudos also to fellow Skålleague Leslie Wright, who without his time and effort as our event Chairman and Master of Ceremonies, we could not have accomplished this successful event! If there was any disappointment during this weekend, it was the Orlando team losing to Tampa Bay by one (1) Callaway point for the Region IV Championship trophy, whereas Orlando came in second and Jacksonville third in the tournament! Congratulations are in order for all those that participated!



Mok Singh, Ron W. Silveira



Left to Right- Ray Phillips (Jacksonville), George Elbe (Tampa Bay), Mike Dyrland, Bob Bader (Memphis)

For those who attended either the Hospitality room and/or the Saturday evening cocktail/banquet, you would have met many of our Skål USA Board members who in conjunction with our Congress were invited to join some of our festivities while they conducted their Annual SIUSA Summer Board meeting.

On behalf of the SIUSA Board they wanted me to extend to the Orlando club, the sponsors and organizers and all those in attendance – their many thanks and above all the Amicale which was extended during their visit.

In conclusion – please don't forget – we need your support at the next Summer Region IV Congress which will be hosted by our Skål family to the south, Tampa Bay! Further details will be announced in 2009!



Barbara Kenney, Rolland & Philippe de Leonardis

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NEW MEMBERS

JULY

Scott Tripoli, General Manager
Crowne Plaza Universal

Cindy Pajak, Account Executive
National Mail/Marketing Corp.

AUGUST

Dan Kline, Vice President
Marketing, Magical Memories
Villas-Orlando

SEPTEMBER

Bill Pullen, Life member
Transferred membership from
Ft. Lauderdale/Palm Beachs to
Orlando

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

JO BAILEY has left World Quest Resort and accepted the Regional Sales & Marketing Manager position with the Syngery Hospitality Group, phone 407-996-2020 ext 7120.

ABDEL ZOUARI has left the Orlando Sun Resort and has accepted the position of Managing Director for the Sheraton and Westin hotels in Freeport, Grand Bahama.

ERIC SZYMANSKI has been transferred to the Orlando Airport Marriott as the Director of Sales and Marketing, phone 407-816-4058.

MIMI VIELHAUER has left American Coach Company.

CALENDAR OF CONGRESSES

For more information go to www.skal.org

Skål International Congress 2008
Taipei, Taiwan 12-17 of October

48th Annual N.A.A.S.C. (North
American) Congress 2009
Anchorage, Alaska
6-10 of May

Skål International Congress 2009
Budapest, Hungary
1-6 of November

49th Annual N.A.A.S.C. Congress
2010, Chateau Frontenac, Quebec
6-8 May 2010

Skål International Orlando

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