



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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# Uncertain Times Provide New Opportunities

**B**ecause of advance deadlines for a print publication, I am writing this message long before you will read it. Composing a message for an uncertain timeline is somehow appropriate in this time of our mutual COVID-19 turmoil.

This is certainly not how I expected to kick off my tenure serving as IIBEC president; regardless, I am ready to face this challenge head on.

The pandemic has changed our lives for the immediate term; however, we must realize that life (both personal and professional) will eventually return to a normal state.

IIBEC held its Annual Meeting of the Members via web conference at the same time we would have, had the convention been in March. Typically, this meeting attracts roughly 250 members at the convention; however, this format resulted in more than 450 members participating. Since we were unable to conduct in-person voting, the electronic voting period was extended prior to the meeting. I'm pleased to welcome Amy Peevey as the first female member of the IIBEC Executive Committee. Additionally, Burt Carver was elected as Director of Region VI. I look forward to Amy's and Burt's contributions to the IIBEC board.

I want to commend CEO Brian Pallasch and the IIBEC team for their quick action in helping to mitigate any negative impacts from the postponement of the convention. Their ability to improvise on the fly and host the web conference to allow us to comply with our bylaws and conduct the Meeting of the Members is amazing.

As you are already aware, we have announced that the 2020 International Convention and Trade Show will be a virtual meeting held on June 12-14, 2020. This format will allow us to offer many educational sessions and provide a virtual trade show to connect exhibitors and their customers. Additionally, we are planning to hold the IIBEC 2020 Building Enclosure Symposium+ (BES+) November 20-22 at the Marriott Marquis Houston. For the BES+, we are making every effort to incorporate those events and activities not included in the virtual meeting, such as the Awards Luncheon and Foundations' Auction.

For now, I ask each of you to concentrate on your mental well-being by disconnecting from the news on television and the internet. Spend time reading a book, watching a movie, taking a walk, or playing a game with your "shelter-in-place" mates. With any distraction, please be sure to employ safe practices by distancing and washing your hands.

None of us knows what the future holds, but I am confident that we will recover from this in short order. We may come out on the other side with some bruises, but we will come out on the other side; and we will all be wiser as a result of the experience. We have a great opportunity to lead by example and help others in their time of need.

I welcome this challenge and hope you do, too; and I look forward to seeing all of you at the BES+ in November! Leading into Thanksgiving, we will have much to be thankful for. I believe we will have learned new ways to work and to connect with our colleagues, our families, and our clients.