A Word about the SPA Convention Proposal Review Process…

The last few years has seen a steady increase in the number of convention proposal abstracts. That, of course, has good news and bad news sides to it. The submissions have been excellent (as convention attendee ratings have evidenced), making the abstract review task simpler (the good news). Unfortunately, many acceptable abstracts have to be "rejected" because we simply don't have enough presentation slots in the convention program (the bad news). Let me explain.

The Space Available . . .
- **All** abstracts (case presentations/discussions, roundtable discussions, symposia, integrated paper sessions, individual papers or posters) are reviewed and rated by multiple reviewers.

- Eight (8) presentation time slots; one on Thursday, three on Friday, and four on Saturday. For each slot we are able to run six, 90 minute sessions.
    - Each session may be either a case presentation/discussion, roundtable discussion, symposium, integrated paper session, or general paper session where individual papers are loosely organized by similar content. For a general paper session, we limit the number of presentations to six.
    - Two poster presentation time slots, on Thursday and Saturday evenings. There we are limited to 40+/- posters each night.

Over the last few years, we have not been able to fit all of the accepted proposals into our allotment of sessions. Fortunately, many of the accepted individual paper authors have been agreeable to changing their papers into posters, then moved to either Thursday or Saturday evening. Still, many proposals have to be excluded.

We have implemented a policy whereby **proposal abstracts for completed research projects were given preference over research projects in process, as of the submission deadline. That helped somewhat and we will continue that policy**.

Another challenge occurs when there are presenters included in several different proposals. As one presenter can't be in two places at once, presentations have to be moved to different time slots/days. Moving those presentations often conflicted with the desire to spread similar content across different time slots, allowing convention goers to take advantage of all the sessions related to a content domain. **For the 2020 Convention, an author, listed as the topic presenter, will be limited to three presentations (if necessary) when conflicts with content scheduling exist. In those cases, the presenter will be asked to find a replacement for presentations beyond the three.**