



Uwe Nienaber, 2011-2012 Chair

## Message from the Chair

Dear CSIFT Members,

Wow – we did it again. Suppliers' Night 2011 broke last year's record numbers for booths sold and visitor attendance. This time we had 516 exhibitor booths, about 2750 pre-registered visitors and another 500 walk-ins. As I walked the aisles and stopped at quite a number of exhibitor booths, I was impressed by the variety of products and services on display. I was amazed that it took me so many hours to complete my "tour of duty". Truly, an experience that will make people want to come back.

Planning and execution of the event went smoothly thanks to the collective experience of our seasoned professional volunteers and our business office. I want to thank all of our committee members, our business office staff and all volunteers for their dedication and hard work. In the weeks before the event I was waiting for some kind of crisis to occur; but whenever I checked, everything was going just fine. Well, that's really the best situation a chair can hope for. Happening in the background and probably unnoticed by most we also had a change in leadership as Jim Anderson took over the chairmanship for the Suppliers' Night committee from Joe Stout.

Did you know that the first Suppliers' Night took place back in 1963 with a total of 11 exhibitors? Since the event was set up after regular work hours, it was called "Night"; nowadays of course it has grown into a full-day event with the Innovation Now Forum in the morning, exposition all afternoon and a social hour to wind down, enjoy a drink and some good conversation. Next year will be our 50th Suppliers' Night, so don't miss it!

Earlier this year the Chicago Section turned 70 years old after its inception in 1941. At our upcoming Holiday Party on 12 December 2011 our historian Dean Duxbury will present some historical highlights and have a collection of artifacts on display. Remember to invite your spouse, significant other or good friend to come along. More details and registration information can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

I wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving and a peaceful holiday season in the company of family and friends. Dust off those cookbooks and enjoy some home-made favorites or try out something new.

Greetings

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