

Message from the Chair

by Don Gall

For those of you who read this while you are here at the Strategies and Solutions Conference, let me say welcome and congratulate you and your employer for investing in your future. For the rest of you, as they say in the sports world, there is always next year. Unfortunately, at this point in the life of the MTA, we are not sure if there will be a next year. By now you have all read what the Board and the staff refer to as THE LETTER. We will be deciding the fate of the MTA at this meeting.

It is necessary that we now take a serious look at the role the MTA plays in the M Community and that we collectively decide what role it takes in the future. We must decide if the time for the MTA has passed or if it should continue. If the MTA continues, do we have the critical mass of dedicated volunteers that will cause it to flourish?

This year's Strategies and Solutions Conference has one of the best programs offered in many years. On the one hand, it is sad that it may be overshadowed by the looming problems with finances brought on by decreasing attendance and membership. On the other hand, if it is decided that this is the last annual meeting of the MTA, we will have gone out with a bang.

The Strategies and Solutions Conference is a good place to pick a path among all of the 3-, 4- and 5- letter acronyms that will be part of your



Don Gall

future. There will be a number of sessions on the tools that are available and how those tools will make your life easier and your products better. There will be people who have "been there and done that" to share their experiences and help you avoid their mistakes and gain from their better decisions.

The two plenary sessions will focus on legacy systems and concentrate on the tools you will need to know and understand to move your application forward. The sessions will have panelists who have been through this process to tell you what they did and how and why they did it.

Other sessions will deal with Web-based interfaces, JAVA, Perl, HTML, XML and other off-the-shelf software that you will learn to know and love. There will be VA-oriented sessions covering VISTA, FileMan/Kernel and other related topics. We will hear about performance testing and an MDC update. InterSystems will make several presentations on connectivity, objects and other topics.

Again, welcome. Enjoy the meeting and the companionship of old and new friends. I personally hope that I will see all of you and many others at next year's meeting.

Don Gall is president of Omega Computer Systems, Inc. and Chair of the MTA Board of Directors.

1998-1999 M Technology Association Board of Directors

Donald A. Gall (1998-2000)
Chair
Omega Computer Systems, Inc.
3875 N. 44th Street, #200
Phoenix, AZ 85018
Phone: 602-952-5240
Fax: 602-952-5250
email: dgall@omegalegal.com

David A. Holbrook (1997-1999)
Vice Chair
135 Fruit Street
Hopkinton, MA 01748
Phone: 617-734-3978
email: david.a.holbrook@cpmx.saic.com

Robert P. Mappes (1998-2000)
Executive Director
Enterprise Analysis Corporation
6633 Butera Drive
Auburn, NY 13021
Phone: 315-255-3085
Fax: 315-255-0298
email: rpmp@localnet.com

Elliot A. Shefrin (1997-1999)
Treasurer
NIH/Gerontology Research Center, Box 05
5600 Nathan Shock Dr.
Baltimore, MD 21224-6825
Phone: 410-558-8145
Fax: 410-558-8312
email: shefrin@nih.gov

John F. Covin (1998-2000)
Immediate Past Chair
P.O. Box 279
Lambertville, NJ 08530
Phone: 609-397-1192
Fax: 609-397-1192
email: johnfcovin@aol.com

Ed de Moel (1998-2000)
Member at Large
Jacquard Systems Research
800 Nelson Street
Rockville, MD 20850-2051
Phone: 301-762-8333
Fax: 301-762-8999
email: demoel@jacquardsystems.com

John P. Glaser, Ph.D. (1997-1999)
Member at Large
Partners HealthCare System, Inc.
Prudential Tower, Suite 1150
800 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02199
Phone: 617-278-0400
Fax: 617-278-1087
email: jglaser@partners.org

Rick D.S. Marshall (1997-1999)
Member at Large
VA Puget Sound Health Systems
Information Systems Center
1660 South Columbus Way
Seattle, WA 98108-1597
Phone: 206-764-2283
Fax: 206-764-2923
email: fdsm@forum.va.gov

Susan O' Gorman (1998-2000)
Member at Large
Synertech Health System Solutions, Inc.
P.O. Box 693000
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9300
Phone: 717-703-6463
Fax: 717-703-6685
email: sogorman@synertechsystems.com