

June 2012

ISA Insights

## Joint DLC with ISA Districts 5 and 13 conference report

By Graham Nasby

The District Leadership Conference (DLC) is one of the building blocks of ISA's program for developing its volunteer leaders. The DLC provides leadership development opportunities for ISA Section members and gives members a chance to get to know each other, attend leadership development workshops, and collaborate on event planning. The DLC is also a venue for each district's annual business meeting to take place.

Section leaders from ISA District 5 and District 13 came together 5–6 May in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada, to hold their 2-day 2012 District Leadership Conference. Hosted by the Sarnia Section, the event brought together members from Eastern Canada (District 13) and the Midwestern U.S. (District 5) to collaborate, share ideas, and network. District 13 attendees included members from the Hamilton, Sarnia, Toronto, Montreal, and Saguenay/Lac S. Jean sections. District 5 attendees included members from the Cleveland, Niagara Frontier, Dayton, Michigan, and Toledo sections.



**Group photo from the District 5 & 13 DLC in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada.**

The DLC kicked off with an evening social and dinner on Friday night at a well-known fish restaurant looking out over the St. Clair River. Attendees from Montreal and Saguenay were happy to enjoy the Sarnia hospitality after making the drive from Quebec. Participants from ISA District 5 were pleased with the smooth trip across the Canadian border. ISA President Bob Lindeman also made the long trek from Tennessee to join the DLC.

Early Saturday morning, District 13 DVP Antonio Alves called the meeting to order, and opening remarks were made by District 5 DVP Debashis Sadhukhan. ISA Sarnia section president Rob Dickson, host of the DLC, welcomed the attendees to the Sarnia area.

The first speaker of the day was ISA President Bob Lindeman. Lindeman gave a motivational speech about the “ISA Structure and Challenges,” speaking about new initiatives by ISA leadership to increase the services and relevance of the Society for today’s automation professional. This presentation led to a spirited roundtable discussion, where volunteer leaders from Districts 5 and 13 discussed various options and ideas on how to promote the ISA and encourage new members to join.

After the roundtable discussion, section members from both districts presented the following workshops for their peers:

- ISA Section Responsibilities  
*with John Milhevic, ISA Cleveland Section (District 5)*
- Process Flow for Standards Approval  
*with Bill Stange, ISA Dayton Section (District 5)*
- ISA Cooperation with the CPCA (Canadian Process Control Association)  
*with Ryan Kershaw, ISA Toronto Section (District 13)*
- Leadership and How it Relates to ISA  
*with Bill Stange, ISA Dayton Section (District 5)*
- Managing Leadership  
*with Patrick Bouwman, ISA Montreal Section (District 13)*
- An Overview of the ISA’s Technical Divisions  
*with Graham Nasby, ISA Hamilton Section (District 13)*
- Test your ISA IQ: Question & Answer Section  
*with Bob Popek, ISA Hamilton Section (District 13)*

Saturday concluded with a nice dinner in the Winners Circle Room at Sarnia’s OLG Waterside Casino, where the ISA Sarnia president Rob Dickson thanked the group for making the trip and encouraged everyone to enjoy the city’s nightlife.

Sunday morning consisted of the District 5 Council Meeting and the District 13 Council Meeting. Each district discussed various topics, such as annual reports from each of the district’s sections; the annual review of their district’s business plan, membership statistics, and trends; and the selection of nominators/delegates for the upcoming international-level SLM/FLM meetings. In the meetings, Section presidents also gave PowerPoint presentations highlighting the events and accomplishments of their individual sections.

The DLC wrapped up with a special joint session with District 5 and District 13 members being brought together for certificate presentations. ISA Section presidents for the past year were recognized with appreciation plaques, and special certificates were given to individuals to recognize outstanding volunteer service. The DLC concluded with a group photo of attendees and a farewell catered lunch.

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

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