It has been almost one year that I have had the honour, and opportunity, of representing the AMS group on the CASA Board of Directors. I would like to thank all of the AMS members for their support of CASA and our group. The AMS is our voice within the Canadian Automatic Sprinkler Association, and our industry, and I would encourage everyone to participate as much as possible. The AMS group met in September 2019 and had an open discussion with regards to the CASA Annual Conference. Subsequent to this meeting, seven AMS member companies volunteered to be part of a Task Group to dialogue and explore ideas on how to improve the CASA Annual Conference with an emphasis on attendance at the Conference and the value of the Trade Show. The Task Group determined that in order to have better information about the Conference, it would be best to conduct a survey to better gauge, and understand, the thoughts on these topics from both member companies that support the Conference and from member companies that do not support the Conference. A draft questionnaire was circulated to the Task Group for comments and suggestions prior to the final version being sent out to all CASA members.

Based on the survey results and the AMS members input, the Task Group finalized a number of suggestions for the Conference that was going to be taking place in Ottawa, June 2020. The Board of Directors approved extending the breaks from 15 minutes to 30 minutes and the lunch break from 60 minutes to 90 minutes, thus allowing more time for the Conference attendees to visit the Trade Show and spend more time with the exhibitors. As well, the Trade Show was going to have an “Around the World” contest, whereby an Apple iPad would be given away on each of the two days (one on Day 1 and one on Day 2). In order to participate in the draw for the iPad, the delegate would need to visit each of the exhibitors’ booth and have their Passport stamped. The draw, on each day, would take place at the end of the last break and the winner would need to be present in the Exhibit area to claim their prize.

At the AMS meeting on February 6, 2020, there was a group discussion about “Exhibit Passes” for the Conference, and how this might entice more people to attend the Conference, specifically for the Trade Show and also for some networking opportunities. There was also a suggestion that we allow the AMS members to donate prizes and have these awarded in a similar manner to the iPads. Also, there was a discussion about having some Technical Workshops at the Conference. The Exhibit Passes, additional prizes and the Technical Workshops would require Board Approval.

On behalf of the AMS group, I would like to thank Matt Osburn for all of his help and support. His commitment to our group has been great and very much appreciated. I look forward to continue working with Matt.

Unfortunately, due to the situation that is occurring at the present time, the Ottawa Conference that was scheduled for June 2020, has been postponed. The CASA AGM will take place (date to be determined) and I encourage all the AMS members to attend via your choice of the options that will be available. During these trying and unprecedented times, please keep visiting the CASA website for up to date information with regards to our industry. The CASA organization is constantly monitoring the situation and providing timely and informative updates.

Stay safe.