



Message from the Great NW Region Manager

Dear Great NW Region ARMA members:

San Antonio was a lovely location for the 51st International ARMA Conference. Fran and I went to San Antonio early for meetings and Leadership Training. The Region Managers met with the International Board of Directors where a great deal of information-sharing occurred. The Leadership Training sessions were perhaps the best I have seen in the several years I have attended such. I came home with a head full of information and I would like to share some of the most important things I learned with you.

During the meetings with the Board and at the Leadership Training, one thing became perfectly clear to me: The ARMA International Board of Directors **gets it**: "ARMA members and its chapters are of the utmost importance to ARMA". Our organization is a member-based association and I believe that fact is always on the minds of our leaders when making decisions on our behalf.

The ARMA Board formed a Leadership Development & Training Committee this past year and they have authorized two new grant programs for ARMA chapters. Basically, these are "need-based" grants to assist chapters in two areas - attendance at Region Leadership Conferences and funding for Chapter Speakers. Chapters with limited funds can apply for these grants. I am very pleased that ARMA is offering assistance to our chapters and chapter leaders. In addition, ARMA will fund and supply an expert leadership trainer to all of the Region Leadership Conferences beginning in 2007. This expert training will help our ARMA chapter leaders develop skills that can be useful in our volunteer positions as well as in our workplaces.

I am happy to report that ARMA's "Competency Project" is on task. ARMA International Board Member and Chair of the Competency Project, Roberta Shaffer, MLn, J.D. said, "We have huge and audacious goals for ARMA and RIM professionals! The end result of the project will be useful as a recruitment tool and make us key players with other professionals."

The basic "Competency" document is near completion (by mid-winter 2007). It will define and be designed around four levels of RIM professionals. A "Competency Validation Tool", to help individuals evaluate their own RIM proficiencies and provide a competency gap analysis, should be available by late Spring, 2007. The Competencies Project hopes that ARMA members can select programs available at its upcoming annual conferences for fulfilling their educational needs (those pesky "competency gaps") beginning next year in Baltimore.

I wish each of our ARMA members a happy holiday season.

Very truly yours,
Sue Lord, Manager
Great Northwest Region of ARMA