



## Region Message-February 2010

*"If not for the courage of the fearless crew, the Minnow would be lost..."*

Records managers don't always think of themselves as courageous. But in order to do our jobs well, we often have to be just that. We are the gatekeepers, the guardians of our companies' records. So what would you do if your boss told you to do something with your records that you know is unwise, if not wrong or possibly, illegal? We all need our jobs and in this economy, it's not a good time to make waves. What do you do?

You educate them! But don't wait for the situation to happen. Start before a situation arises. The next time you attend a meeting, a webinar, or a conference, send your boss a note to let them know that you "just heard a great presentation on (fill in the blank). I learned a lot about it." Offer to share what you learned. You will gain credibility. Then if someone asks you to do something that you know is unwise, you can explain why that idea is not the best course of action. It's not always easy, but if not for your courage, your records could be lost.

Some of you may have noticed that ARMA is now charging for the webinars. The reasons for this are simple. First, as with most businesses, revenues are down. ARMA's two major revenue streams are the International Conference and dues. Attendance at this year's conference in Orlando was down a bit from normal. Memberships are also down slightly due to many members losing financial support from their employers if not losing their jobs altogether. So there are shortfalls in both revenue streams. Adding to that, ARMA is developing some new training courses for the membership and, like most everything, the costs to do that are up. Rather than raise our dues any further, the decision was made to begin charging for the webinars.

Save the date!! Coming up is the Great Northwest Region Conference, April 15-16 in Bellevue. Be sure to mark your calendars! The Bellevue/Eastside, Greater Seattle, and Puget Sound Chapters are working hard along with the Region Team on making this a great event! Watch your mailboxes and inboxes for more information.

Voting for the ARMA International Board of Directors has just closed. I hope that you all participated in the process. Very soon, our chapters will begin the nomination process for our respective Boards of Directors for next year. I urge you to start thinking about running for a position in your chapter. It isn't always easy being at the helm, but it is a great growth experience, both personally and professionally. If serving on a board is too much, get involved in a chapter committee or volunteer for a one-time task. There are many ways in which you can help!

Whether you are a 'passenger' or 'crew' on board your ship, have courage. If not for your courage and volunteerism, our chapters, our association, our profession could be lost.

Marc

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