Hello everybody, this is Lydia Middleton, Executive Director with ASIS&T coming to you from Leesburg Virginia where my home office is located. We are in the midst of a very hot summer here. I hope those of you in the northern hemisphere are able to stay cool in this hot weather and those in the southern hemisphere are enjoying a nice winter without too much harsh weather.

I have a lot to catch you up on I thought I would do this this video today. I'm going to download the transcript as well so hopefully everybody can follow along.

Let's start out with the Board meeting. The Board met in the end of May/beginning of June in Boston for a strategic planning retreat. We haven't had one of those in several years...not since COVID, in part because of COVID and in part to save money because it is expensive to travel a global board of directors anywhere. We were fortunate enough to have eight of our ten board members in attendance and one more, Tina Du from Australia, was online. We had some robust good conversation around strategic directions. You will remember that we're year three of a five-year strategic plan, so we already have a lot of things on our plate and new things that we're doing, so this was an opportunity to think about what might we want to take off our plate that we're currently doing but is not a high priority as well as teeing up some new things to start thinking about future. So a very good productive meeting in Boston.

A few business-related things that were decided…one is that although we were somewhat disappointed in the performance of the midyear meeting this year–we get a lot of demand from members to create opportunities for virtual attendance and presentation at a peer reviewed meeting and so that's what we did when we created the midyear conference. But then we had very low levels of both submissions and attendance at that meeting so it was it was concerning that the the demand that we perceived from this may not actually exist. But we're going to give it another try in the coming year. What we're going to do is put out a call for proposals to our members to invite a member institution to pull together the next mid-year conference and try and and see if we can get more engagement more activity and excitement during the meeting that way, So keep an eye out for a call for participation for that coming down the pike.

Another thing we decided to do was to outsource the archiving work we have. We're in the process of moving out of our office building as our lease ends beginning of February ’24. We're going to take the entire organization virtual (essentially we are virtual now but still have this office space that we lease and a lot of furniture and files and books and so forth in that space) so we are packing up all those files and we are going to send them to a member institution in the hopes that we can have the archives of the association reviewed, curated, and eventually sent to the University of Michigan where are our archives are housed. So, we put out a call for proposals for that as well. We're hoping that an institution will want to use it as a project for an archiving course. Lookout for that–I think that's also mentioned in this Inside ASIS&T.

Another idea that we came up with was potentially expanding complimentary memberships to adjunct faculty. For those of you not in the United States, external lecturer is another way of thinking about those folks. We would look at doing this to get more people that working in industry and practice into ASIS&T membership to really inform us about on the ground research needs and develop a better dialogue between academics and practitioners in information science. So that's coming down the road.

The Board agreed to use the ASIS&T scholarship fund which was sitting at about $4,000 this year to provide scholarships to Tier 2 members who have concluded their first two free years of membership and wish to continue but do not have the financial means to pay the modest but still significant dues. So we have funded 46 Tier 2 so far members to continue on that membership in ASIS&T. The criteria for that is essentially the level of prior engagement in ASIS&T. So, if somebody has attended a webinar or put a profile on iConnect or even a profile on the member database, that indicates that person is engaged with the association. We have quite a few Tier 2 members who are very engaged in going to webinars, volunteering for committees and so forth so we're happy to support those folks in continuing their membership with us. So if you're a Tier 2 member and you know your two years or going to be concluding soon, I encourage you to to take advantage of those opportunities to demonstrate engagement in the association so that we can make sure that we can support you going forward.

So those are some of the things the board decided at its meeting a couple of months ago in Boston. The Board meets again on August 14th. Among other things, we'll be looking at the program for the annual meeting and various other things leading into the Annual Meeting.

Speaking of the Annual Meeting, we are really excited at the level of interest in the meeting. We had record setting submissions…not just record setting for an international meeting but record setting for any meeting in the last ten years or so. We're going to have a very robust program. We have expanded the number of meeting rooms we have at the hotel so that we can accommodate more presenters. We're doing two nights of poster session instead of just one again to accommodate more presenters. We know that you need to be able to present to come to the meeting so we're trying to create as many opportunities as we can for you to do that. And great keynote speakers…look at the website to see what you have to look forward to there. It's a robust program and and I think we're going to see good attendance. We've got over 100 people registered already and the early bird deadline is still about three weeks out so, so we're really excited about seeing all of you in London. People have a pent-up demand for face-to-face meetings and travel. We saw some of that play out in Pittsburgh, but we think we will see a whole lot of people at this annual meeting.

In other news, the Board Elections have concluded. You'll see that elsewhere in this Inside ASIS&T. Congratulations to Ian Ruthven who was elected president-elect and Bhakti Gala and Luanne Sinnamon who were elected as Members-at-Large. Thanks go out to those folks who were not elected this year and we hope you will run again. We had a good level of participation though not great…we had about 12% of the membership vote. I encourage you to pay attention to voting…this is your association, and we want to make sure that your leadership reflects you and your interests.

Committee appointments are underway. If you submitted a form saying you wanted to volunteer you probably have already heard from us about a volunteer position, whether it was a committee or a chapter or a special interest group. If you haven't heard from me it likely means we are going to propose you as a member of an award jury. We got about 80 submissions for volunteers, and we had maybe 25 committee slots to fill so we have to be judicious about making sure that everybody that wants to be engaged can be. The juries for awards are not appointed until typically beginning of the calendar year so if you have not heard anything about your your submission to volunteer by February, please get back in touch with me and I'll make sure that your information is passed along but again if you haven't heard from us probably because we're going to propose you as the jury volunteer. If you did not volunteer to be on a jury and you haven't heard from me, email and let me know.

Awards have been decided and that information is also in this issue. Congratulations to all our award winners. We're looking forward to seeing you all in London and having the opportunity to hand these awards out to our very deserving winners. Please join me in congratulating those folks.

That is everything for right now. We will be back in touch with you one more time before annual meeting with any last-minute updates but right now we are just very excited about how the meeting looks and looking forward to seeing as many of you there as possible so happy summer winter whichever one you happen to be in right now and I look forward to seeing you soon take care. Bye!