Dear EMG Members-

As many of you are aware, AIC is in the final stages in the development of a certification program. Currently, the Certification Implementation Task Force (CITF) is contacting Specialty Group Officers to answer questions and discuss areas of concern related to each Group. On June 4th, EMG Chair Christine Frohnert and Assistant Program Chair Fletcher Durant participated in a conference call with Ruth Seyler, AIC Membership Director, and Nancy Pollak, Certification Development Working Group Member, to discuss EMG’s preliminary concerns. Topics broached include relevance of exam questions to EMG topics; possibility of certification for membership with no/broad formal educational programs; whether members would seek certification when available; specialty certification; and activities eligible for Recertification Credits.

As it currently stands, CITF was formed to explore the option of a certification program. They have completed that mission after surveying the membership to determine the format and structure for the exam, the requirements for the exam, the method of grading, the approximate cost, etc. CITF is proposing a short-essay format examination costing no more than $350 to be voluntarily taken by qualified members. Certified members would then be required to be recertified every three years through the accumulation of a yet-to-be determined number of Recertification Credits granted for a wide range of educational activities, including workshops, papers, and presentations. Recertification could also be achieved by re-taking the exam. CITF has produced a document outlining the proposed certification program. We encourage all members to read through the more complete description of the current proposal online at http://aic.stanford.edu/certification/. Please note the link to the FAQ section at the bottom of the page, http://aic.stanford.edu/certification/certfaq.html.

A September 2008 member vote is being scheduled to determine whether or not AIC is going to proceed to implement the proposed program. This vote is expected to be the final vote on certification by the AIC membership. If it is approved, a grant proposal will be written and submitted to several granting agencies to assist in completing such tasks as developing a job task analysis and hiring an education specialist to assist in developing test questions. If approved, the proposal will also incorporate the test run and will cover the first two years of certification implementation. If the membership does not approve the program, AIC will halt all certification development- and implementation-related activities.

EMG Chair/Assistant Program Chair, are seeking feedback from the membership regarding any concerns about certification as it relates to EMG. Please send your thoughts to Christine Frohnert <c.frohnert@verizon.net> and cc: Fletcher Durant <fletcher.durant@gmail.com> so that we may address them with CITF members.

Thank you very much for your input,

Christine Frohnert 
EMG Chair

Fletcher Durant 
EMG Assistant Program Chair