**Hibernate? Never!**

Though the winter months’ short days and grey skies (and the occasional 10–12 in. of snowfall) this year have got much of the country snowbound with record-breaking amounts of precipitation, any inclination to hole up and wait for it to all blow over is quickly offset by the eternal abundance of opportunity to grow and learn.

Now is the time to start planning, for the spring training season. For the first time in many years, RSES International Headquarters in Des Plaines, IL, will host seminars onsite—topics from air-conditioning startups to troubleshooting, as well as business management through our recently-launched “Contractor Development” program. In addition, the traditional lineup of seminars held in conjunction with local RSES Chapters around the country will be in full swing, as will the can’t-be-beat State and Regional Association educational meetings.

Looking even further ahead, the 2011 RSES Annual Conference location will be situated in beautiful downtown Norfolk, VA, at the Sheraton Waterside hotel Nov. 2–5, 2011 (see page 35). Join fellow industry professionals in “Making History with RSES.” Building on the usual complement of top-notch technical sessions, plan to network with your peers and choose from additional educational opportunities such as contractor-focused and Chapter Officer training sessions.

In the category of change we don’t necessarily want to accept, early January has had its share. Just before year’s end, we lost one of our most dedicated RSES Members, Mr. Bill Barranger, CM. Bill’s contributions to *RSES Journal*, particularly in terms of leading the Manufacturers’ Service Advisory Council (MSAC) for decades, have been invaluable and will be dearly missed.

Another outstanding contributor to RSES for almost 17 years, Renee Tomlinson also will be missed as she moves on to a new position elsewhere. After having begun her professional career answering the phones at RSES, Renee grew in experience and responsibility, ultimately directing all RSES training and testing development. Programs such as RSES eLearning, NATE preparation materials, our participation in the HVACR & Mechanical (formerly Plumbing) Workshop, and much more can attribute their success directly to her leadership. We all wish Renee nothing but the best in her future endeavors.

In the realm of governance, the 2011 elections for Regional Directors includes the following geographical areas: Regions 8 & 11, Regions 14 & 15, and Regions 16 & 17. Declarations of nominees for these areas are due at Headquarters by Feb. 10, 2011. Regions 5 & 7 were inadvertently included in the December 2010 issue, and should not have been. Instead, Region 2 Director Joe Marchese, CMS, in order to help balance the load of elections each year, had volunteered to serve a shortened term and run for re-election again in 2011. Therefore, any other declarations for Members interested in being nominated for the position of Region 2 Director, serving a two-year term beginning in November 2011, are due in Headquarters by May 1, 2011.

Mark Lowry
RSES Executive Vice President