



## InfraGard Northern Ohio Chapter

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TO: InfraGard Northern Ohio Chapter Executive Council  
FROM: Greg D. Feezel, Communications Coordinator, chapter delegate to 2008 Congress  
DATE: June 9, 2008  
SUBJECT: Report on the 2008 InfraGard National Congress

This year, 2008, the InfraGard National Congress took place on June 1, 2008 in Orlando, Florida. It was held in conjunction with the 2008 GFIRST National Conference. Regarding attendance, 47 out of a total of 86 InfraGard Members Alliance (IMA) chapters had delegates. There are a total of 86 IMA chapters. As far as Ohio representation, of the four IMA chapters Northern Ohio and Central Ohio were present.

I served as the delegate for the Northern Ohio InfraGard Chapter. FBI Supervisory Special Agent Michael Brian attended the Congress with me representing our chapter as acting Northern Ohio Chapter FBI InfraGard Coordinator. He was filling in for our official Coordinator Stan Paulson.

The Congress started at 9:00 AM and lasted until approximately 5:15 PM. It was supposed to finish around 2:00 PM but there was one topic that consumed a great deal of time due to all of the active discussion that occurred. I took several pages of notes and have distilled them into the following.

### Summary of Topics:

- INMA Board changes
- “Super IMA” or IMA districts
- Proportional voting
- Engagement of members
- DHS considerations of InfraGard to help with CI/KR
- Membership dues
- INMA financial status of INMA (aka “we have no money”)

### INMA Board of Directors Personnel Changes:

- Three changes to the INMA Board will be occurring this year: Chairman Dr. Phyllis Schneck, President Rob Schmidt, and Treasure Jeff Schmidt will be leaving the Board
- We were briefed about the succession of the Chairman and President Board posts: \_\_\_ will serve as Chairman and Ron Dick will serve as President
- New Board Members Elected: Bryant Tow and Dyann Bradbury. All delegates voted affirm/yes. They will serve a 3 year term.

### Treasurers Report:

- INMA has no money
- All IMAs need to ensure they have a bank account in chapters name in order to receive money from apparel sales, etc.

### Ron Dick speech:

- InfraGard should not just be made up of cyber-security people
- How does DHS connect at the local level? Think about how this can be achieved.

### Miscellaneous INMA Board Notes:

- Heard speeches by a couple of the Board members

### InfraGard NOC Executive Council

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- President Rob Schmidt stated the management needs to be at the local level and not from the top-down.
- InfraGard is being considered to be coordinating group for protecting Critical Infrastructure & Key Resources (CI/KR). Essentially responsible for the Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) program
- Revetting of all members coming up
- InfraGard members and the general community needs educated about CI/KR, threats to them and their vulnerabilities
- Comment made that a majority of InfraGard members are not engaged and this needs to be corrected
- Many chapters facing financial troubles and are seeking ways for funding

### “Super IMA” Proposal:

- Goal: reach out to regions not represented or geographically near an existing IMA. Essentially this will form districts.
- Vote. The Board decided that we would not vote on this issue at the Congress since not all chapters were represented and determined all chapters need to have a say about this item. The Board will take this into the ECVP process.
- INMA comments: rather than creating these “super IMAs” they suggest change voting to be proportional to the size of the chapter membership instead of each chapter be weighted the same – which is the current configuration. They also suggest funds be divided up this way as well.
- A concern to proportional voting was brought up that larger IMAs would have too much power over smaller chapters

### Membership Profile

- Comments that the Board and FBI don’t know who our members are and what skills they possess
- INMA feels all contact info and skills of members should be shared with FBI

### Chris Dowd speech:

- Chris is the unit chief of FBI PPAU. The PPAU supports and coordinates InfraGard for FBI
- Creating a InfraGard membership profile database
- Purchasing lapel pins and banners. Wants each member to be able to have a pin.

### Cornelius Tate speech:

- Cornelius is the head of DHS’ Network Cyber Security Division (NCSD). Brand new to the job.
- DHS Trusted Internet Connection (TIC): taking 4,000 Internet connections around DHS down to 72
- Einstein: essentially an Intrusion Detection System (IDS)
- National Cyber Security Center: collaboration between intel-reporting sources (ie,; DOD, NCSD, NCITF, IT-ISAC). NCITF=National Cyber Investigation Task Force

### Membership Dues:

- This was a “hotly” discussed/debated topic! We spent at least 1½ hours on it.
- INMA investigating accepting donations. Tax accountants told them they are surprised we don’t accept donations.
- INMA seems to support idea of dues

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- Several chapters mentioned they charge dues: Louisiana \$30/yr, San Antonio \$25/yr, Minnesota \$25/yr. Minn does not charge law enforcement, public servants, Universities, or govt employees – essentially corporate members pay the fee.
- Others do not: NOC, Baltimore, Central OH, Los Angeles
- Chris Dowd, when asked by Board for his comments about reduced membership and that impact on the measurements the FBI does, said he doesn't care about how many members are in the chapters as long as they are active members.
- Reasons given for initiative (pros):
  - INMA needs funding
  - Will improve member engagement
  - Provides funds for chapters who badly need it (who don't have other sources)
- Concerns (cons) expressed by IMAs to INMA Board:
  - Many expressed concerns about this issue
  - Will reduce membership
  - Potential to drive active members out
  - INMA Board not fully researched issue, have come to IMA chapters prematurely
  - Members feel they provide value to the group and why should the members pay
- Suggestions made by members:
  - INMA should seek DHS grant funding
  - Donations from vendors
  - Portion of membership dues determined by member count would be sent to INMA. This suggestion was made by Central Ohio delegate.
  - IMAs pay a fixed amount each year into INMA. Sort of a franchise fee.
- Discussion concluded with INMA Board asking for approval to investigate membership dues options. The vote by IMAs concluded in a tie and thus the INMA Board will use the ECVF process. I voted against them looking into the options.
- I maintained the position that membership dues is an idea the NOC Board does NOT FAVOR.

Report concluded.

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