

SAGE UPDATE

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Since the writing of the August SAGE update, many of the transitional arrangements necessary to form a new, independent SAGE have come to pass. First and foremost, we held elections for the new Board. The SAGE Board consists of Geoff Halprin, Trey Harris, Doug Hughes, Andrew Hume, Chris Palmer, David Parter, Tom Perrine, Stephen Potter, and Pat Wilson.

Then, from July 29th to the 31st, the new Board met for a strategic planning session and first Board meeting of the new SAGE. We elected our officers: Tom Perrine is now the president, Pat Wilson the vice president, and Andrew Hume is secretary/treasurer. We then spent nearly all of our time planning for the short and medium term, and doing preliminary long-term brainstorming.

In the short term, our efforts are focused on creating a stable, transparent, and responsible organization. Without a strong foundation, further efforts would be futile. The Interim Board did great work here, providing us with a corporation, bylaws, and legal structure. They also chose an association management company (AMC), and at the

meeting we selected an executive director. By the time you read this, we will have likely completed arrangements with the AMC and will have introduced it and our executive director to SAGE.

We continue to work in the short term, with the support of the USENIX Board, on moving SAGE member services to our control. We hope to finish well before the LISA '05 conference. We also formed a number of strategic committees, described in the August Memo to Members, to build various parts of a stable SAGE, such as partnerships, development of sponsors, membership, communications, and leadership.

Leadership is a special focus of the new SAGE. We have formed a highly independent, non-Board Leadership Committee. The Leadership Committee will be the nominating committee for elections, but will stay active between elections to engage and encourage volunteers, helping to develop present and future leaders of SAGE. Greg Rose has graciously consented to serve as chair of the Leadership Committee.

We then went beyond our institutional efforts and examined the mission of SAGE. SAGE is dedicated to individual support and education, advancing our profession as a whole, and serving the wider public interest in system administration. That's a broad mandate, and hard to distill. We aim to provide our membership year-round with the community experience LISA conferences offer. Education, communication, and research all fall under this effort.

Now we have to decide which programs we want to revive or start, in what order, and how we deliver on them. SAGE's work up to and including LISA '05 will aim to answer these questions. We will be presenting our medium-range plans there at the Community Meeting and BoF sessions. We'll

want to hear which member services SAGE members want, and how best to deliver them. Board members will be there all week and will welcome input from present or potential SAGE members. Please strongly consider attending LISA this year to see and shape the future of SAGE, as well as for the excellent technical and training programs that LISA offers.

Speaking personally, I have enjoyed serving on the SAGE Board a great deal so far. The engagement and energy—and, honestly, fun times—at the meeting were a hopeful sign of things to come. I hope you join us in building an effective organization focused solely on our profession. Please, if you wish to get involved or have feedback on the future of SAGE, don't hesitate to contact us at board@sage.org.