DeGelleke Award- Tom Jacobson -1

Good Evening:

What a great convention and what a special time this is for me personally.

I am proud and honored to present this year’s DeGelleke Award. Our recipient this year is exceptional in every respect and a wonderful friend.

The DeGelleke Award is given to the person for their outstanding achievements and contributions to advance our association and industry.

Each year member’s on the executive committee is charged with the task of choosing candidates and venting the person who receives this coveted award. I can tell you having served on the committee it’s not an easy task.

Let me share about my personal experience and how I got to know this year’s recipient. We first met in New Orleans where we were about to experience our first meeting as junior members of the Board of Directors.

We didn’t have much time to get to know each other during that meeting.

Looking back I think we were both a little reserved, I know I was.

It wasn’t long after that first meeting that I figured out that this guy is exceptional.

Since I like to spend time with smart people I didn’t let much time go by without getting to know him. He made that easy. As soon as I felt comfortable enough, I put out the bait to get to know him personally. I extended an invitation to visit Scottsdale to play a little golf or San Diego to do a little boating.

Guess what? He took the bait and within six months or so he paid that visit to Scottsdale. That turned out to be the beginning of what developed into a wonderful friendship with him and our families. That friendship continues today.

Let me tell you a little about his service and contributions to CISCA.

He joined the board in 2001

During his tenure on the board he either chaired or participated on various working committee’s:

 Served on Committee to recruit and hire three different Executive

 Directors.

 Education committee.

 Membership committee

 Co-Chaired with Tom Edens, a past president and DeGelleke recipient, to

 convert the ceilings system handbook to Spanish.

 In 2004 he formed and chaired the strategic planning committee

 Served on convention committees

 Supported and attended various CISCA programs including annual golf

 tournaments.

 During his leadership as Secretary/Treasure on the executive committee,

 he recognized the financial challenges facing the association and worked

 with the executive committee to resolve the immediate cash flow

 challenge. He then worked with the executive committee and the

 executive director and made recommendations to restructure the finances

 that put the association on a path to financial stability and health. This

 was no easy task. I know because I was a part of the team at the time.

I think it can be said today that had he not taken the ball a run with it, the association could have had a financial meltdown.