

From the President . . . Through the Years

In honor of NaSPA's 20th anniversary, and former President Scott Sherer's leadership, we've decided to present this timeline of President's letters throughout the years. Much has happened in NaSPA and in the world during the past 20 years. These excerpts represent milestones and changes that have occurred within the organization, as well as world events that have affected NaSPA. It is interesting to reflect on all that has happened since NaSPA's inception, the new issues that we must face in the future, and the old issues we continue to grapple with.



April 1988: "NaSPA delivers Technical Support magazine to you every month. Although the magazine was our first service to the members of NaSPA, and is still the most visible, we are continuing to grow other services for our members. On the professional side, our most rapidly growing service is NaSCOM, the dial-up bulletin board system. This system is a vehicle for members to ask and answer data processing related questions. It is a network like no other in the world, providing the exchange of technical information among technical professionals throughout the United States and Canada"

1986

1987

1988

1989

1990

1991

1992

1993

1994

1995

19

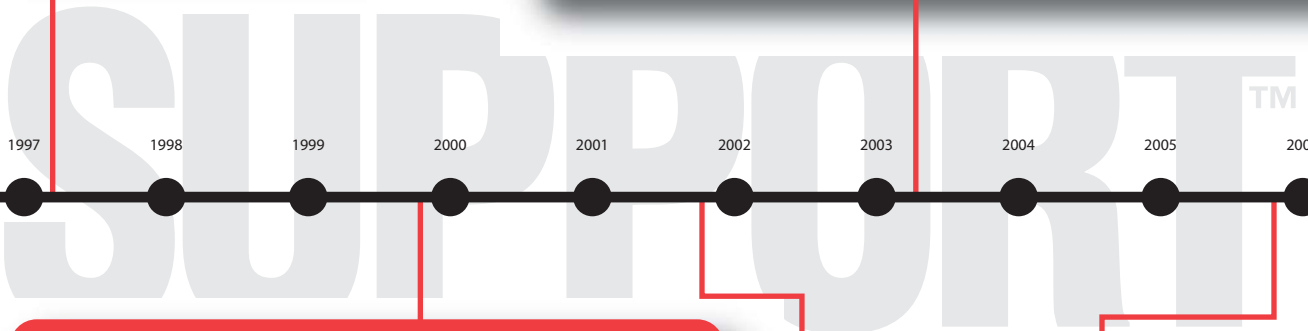
February 1991: "Here we are in the 90's. People entering the profession have to learn about first-level interrupt handlers, dispatchers and real storage managers from the old-timers. But, what is going to happen when these old timers retire? Will anyone in our profession know how our software works? Will anyone know if the code is running correctly? Will anyone know if the code is running efficiently? How will we know if the million dollar boxes are running as intended?"

October 1992: "This has been an incredible year for natural disasters. I can't remember so many major environmental disruptions in one year. Earthquakes in California, floods in downtown Chicago, Level 5 tornadoes around the country, and, of course, Hurricane Andrew. As we all know, businesses are extremely vulnerable to these kinds of situations. I have spent the last week communicating with businesses in South Florida about their experiences. Most of these companies had disaster plans in place at the time Andrew blew through. I was pleased to learn most of these plans were implemented flawlessly. It makes me very proud that members of our association did their jobs quickly, professionally, and loyally. My hat is off to all of you."



March 1997: "Many changes have taken place with NaSPA recently. While NaSPA originally stood for National Systems Programmers Association, most of you know that it is no longer true. We have evolved over the last 11 years to become the Network and Systems Professionals Association. 'National' is inappropriate because we have members in 72 countries. 'Systems Programmers' was, and still remains, one of our core member niches, but we also cater to network administrators, network engineers, technical management and consultants."

March 2003: "NaSPA is not an association about the United States or North America, or the Northern Hemisphere. We are an association of humans who have a love of computing. We have members of all religions and races. We have members from 86 countries including many former Soviet-block countries, China and most of the Mideast. I've included a list of those countries where we have members. Look at the list and remember that these members share your love of life, family, and computing. We have much more in common with the world than we sometimes think."



December 1999: "As we conclude this millennium, it's time to reflect on all that has happened – at least in our lifetimes. I remember as a kid thinking about the year 2000 and wondering what I would be doing when the new millennium began. I'm not sure I ever anticipated being the president of a computing association, but I am thankful for having had this opportunity to provide guidance and hopefully make a difference in the professional lives of each of our members."

October 2001: "Our hearts go out to all those who have been affected personally by the horrible and tragic events that have transpired here in the United States. I would like to thank those members from other countries who sent NaSPA their condolences. When tragedy strikes fellow members, it touches our hearts to know that others share in the sorrow of our nation."

December 2005: "A changing of the guard is underway at NaSPA Headquarters this month. After twenty years at the helm of NaSPA, I'm trading places with NaSPA Vice President and long term director Radi Shourbaji. Let's all support Radi as he starts his presidency on January 1, 2006. Radi: Over to you!"