



May 11, 2012

Dear HISPI Members,

It has now been almost four weeks since assuming the reigns as President of HISPI. During this time I have been giving a great deal of thought to the future of our organization. If you are like me, you believe in what HISPI brings to enhance the information security industry. We have a great training and certification program and I believe that we will continue to improve and provide value to our profession.

You have probably been wondering what's been happening with HISPI during the last few months. But first I want to give my thanks to a couple of very important people. I want to thank John DiMaria and Gary Sheehan for their hard work during their terms as President of this organization over the last several years. It has been their stewardship of this organization that has my decision to take this position easier. John remains one of my key advisors and Gary has reassumed his former role as Vice President. I look forward to many more years working with both of them.

New Advisory Board Member:

In February Robin Basham, Managing Partner and CEO of EnterpriseGRC Solutions, Inc.® joined the HISPI Advisory Board. Robin is an active member of Cloud Credential Council, an ITGI ISACA Sponsor and board member to multiple standards organizations. Robin has been invaluable in our recent efforts to update the training materials. Her experience as an ISACA sponsor and trainer for CISA and CGEIT courses has vastly improved our training content on auditing and CobiT.

Training Materials Update:

As you may know, in January Taiye Lambo, Founder of the HISP Course and HISPI transferred all pre-existing intellectual property and the HISP training materials from eFortresses to HISPI. Since that time members of the Governance and Advisory boards have spent approximately 400 hours updating and enhancing these resources. We believe that while the materials were excellent before, they are now OUTSTANDING. We have included information relating to updated laws and regulations, enhanced content in the areas of the ISO 27000 series, Auditing, CobiT (including information about to CobiT 5), ITIL and COSO.

We will soon be rerecording the HISP online course which may interest many of you as a refresher. We will provide currently certified members a deeply discounted price for this course once it is available.

Along with the update of the training material we are improving the examination process. In February we upgraded 36 new exam questions As the materials enhancement are completed we are again reviewing the examination to ensure validity of the current set of questions and adding a number of new ones based on the new and improved material.

Non-Profit Status:

We are working to obtain status as a not for profit 501c3 corporation. We believe that this will make HISPI more appealing to potential sponsors. This status will also put us in line with other organizations such as CSA, ISACA and ISC².

ANSI Certification:

We are also working diligently to obtain our ANSI certification. This will open additional markets to our courses and make us more valuable within the industry.

Web Site Redesign:

We are trying to obtain assistance to redesign the HISPI web site. We recognize our web site is less than appealing and not highly functional. The current plan is to partner with a community college web/SQL development program. Through the college capstone project to redesign the web site, we intend to make it both more functional and easier to maintenance. We expect that improving our site design will help HISPI to gain better coverage and sponsorship. This is also an opportunity for a contributing member to achieve recognition for their support by building a well-recognized and secure organization web site.

How you can help:

Your help is needed. Currently, our organization can't even boast the 80/20 rule, where 20% of the people do 80% of the work. In fact, everything being done for this organization is accomplished with fewer than 10 people and most of that work is being done by 5. We have made calls for your assistance in the past with VERY LITTLE RESPONSE. The people who gain the greatest value from membership are the ones who actively participate. Support can take many forms, such as writing articles, joining committees, helping to build new content, liaising with other security and compliance organizations.

What can you do?

- Volunteer to participate at volunteer@hispi.org.
- Keep your membership fee up to date.. If you are in arrears for 2010 or 2011, pay up. You can also pay membership fees for 2012 if you haven't already. All of us working to support HISPI are volunteers. All of the funds that you pay go to support the organizations operations, our web site hosting, email and voicemail accounts so that we can be contacted, etc.
- Promote the training and certification within your organization and other associations of which you are a part such as ISSA, InfraGard, HTCIA and any others. Help us to coordinate and schedule classes in your area. If you wish to have a class anywhere, contact me, and we can work something out.
- Find or be a sponsor. The benefits to sponsors are high and the dollar value is low. Our platinum sponsorship is only \$5,000 per year and silver is \$1,000. Compare that to ISACA, ISC² or CSA.
- You can submit articles for the newsletter or allow us to publish your white papers on the web site. Your research will benefit the HISPI community; you will receive CPEs for any published article or white paper.
- Submit examination questions. Improving the examination improves the value of your certification.
- There are many other ways in which you can help. If you think of something that you believe HISPI may benefit from contact me via email or phone (888-247-4848, select option 1).

Member Relations:

Look, you are important to us. In fact you are the reason we do what we do. Board participation is 100% voluntary, with its reward entirely tied to the value we deliver.

Tell us what you would like to see from HISPI. What can we do to enhance the value of your certification? We do want to hear from you. Give us advice on how we can improve the web site (better yet, if you have the skills help us improve it), how we can improve materials or provide what you might like to see from the organization (better yet help us develop those materials). Suggest ways to make the certification more valuable and beneficial to both you and our other members. However, remember ideas without bodies to advance them go nowhere, so above all else, volunteer to help us move your ideas forward.

I think that is enough for my first letter to you. I will endeavor to keep you informed on our progress on a regular basis.

Remember, I want to hear from you by email at rjohnson@hispi.org or telephone 888-247-4848, select option 1.

Ralph Johnson, CISSP, HISP, CISM, CIPP/US
HISPI Governance Board President