

Subject: November 2008 Newsletter from ALSSA
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November, 2008 Newsletter

Wow, it sure is time for one. Let me give all of you a short explanation for my not being as "present" in the past couple of months.

I have taken over the direct management of my Internet company, HiWAAY Internet Services, that has been hosting our web site since it began. I have done almost all of the web site work and changes myself. You see I am the webmaster from the bottom of many pages. But since the first of September, when I took over this business with about 60 people, I have more than had my hands full. I am still in the storage business and my son, Brent, is running those facilities. I am supervising the internet company full time, with no plans for any change in the near future.

Timing was good for Stuart LaGroue to become your new president, even though this was scheduled to happen before I made the decision to take on the role of GM (General Manager) of HiWAAY. Currently, I am working in a different office about 6-7 hours a day, with the other 2-3 hours at my Clinton Avenue address, which is the home office of Smith Broadcasting, the parent company of all the businesses. I will continue to be a board member, have agreed to continue involvement with the web site (although our man in Montgomery, Greg Masood, believes his web department can give us an overhaul and do some of the work in the future).

Everyone in the country is cutting back. We have seen some vacancies due to people being short of cash and cleaning out their stuff, selling it and other options. Overall, I have not seen nearly the impact on our business that a lot of other retail establishments have felt. I think the storage business, at least in Alabama, will weather this economic downturn better than many other types of businesses.

Stuart LaGroue has the email list and will be taking over email contact with you in the very near future. I was appreciative of the award plaque I received at our October meeting. The hardwood plaque adorned with a bright yellow company lock gets noticed every time someone comes into my office. Thanks, Stuart.

I have truly enjoyed being a board member, later President, the first EXPO Chairman, web master, newsletter author, organizer of the Huntsville State meetings and other assortments of jobs and contacting current and potential members. I just don't have the time available for all those things anymore, but I will be on the board of directors as long as you want me to be.

Regards,
M.D. Smith, President