
From: info@podi.com
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Subject: PODI News - Quick Shift from In-Person to Online Testing and Video Conference Win!



Pandemic Spurs Quick Transition from In-Person to Online Testing

When COV-19 shutdowns became widespread in March, many associations had to scramble to postpone, cancel or reimagine events that could no longer be held in person. PODI client **WACEL** had a different challenge – the in-person certification testing offered by WACEL on behalf of its construction and engineering firm members remained critical as the construction industry continued to work through the pandemic.

WACEL offers 14 different certification exams, with a large majority being proficiency exams that technicians must pass before working on construction sites. Prior to the pandemic, all WACEL testing was conducted in person, either at the WACEL office in Bethesda or at member sites, and grading was done by hand. WACEL needed to quickly shift its certification testing online while maintaining the integrity of the testing process.

PODI and WACEL worked together to develop a plan to offer testing through the PODI education module. This included a laundry list of changes to the software and the testing process to accommodate WACEL’s needs. Within a few short weeks, PODI put in place a secure registration system, multiple versions of WACEL proficiency exams, secure links to engineering plans, automatic grading, and programming to connect exam registration and results to WACEL’s Filemaker back office. Special exam requirements were set up to allow for specific times for testing availability and time limits for each course.

During the past month, more than 100 technicians from 16 WACEL member firms have registered and completed online certification exams; 74% of those tested achieved certification. Although limited in-person testing is now available, WACEL members continue to register their technicians for online testing and WACEL is well prepared in case in-person options again shut down. With this new online testing capability in its toolbox, WACEL can extend its testing capacity beyond the greater DC area and allow non-member companies to register and pay for online testing.

Talk to us about challenges your organization is facing as you navigate changes to your operations and member services. We are always at the ready to customize our solutions to your specific needs.

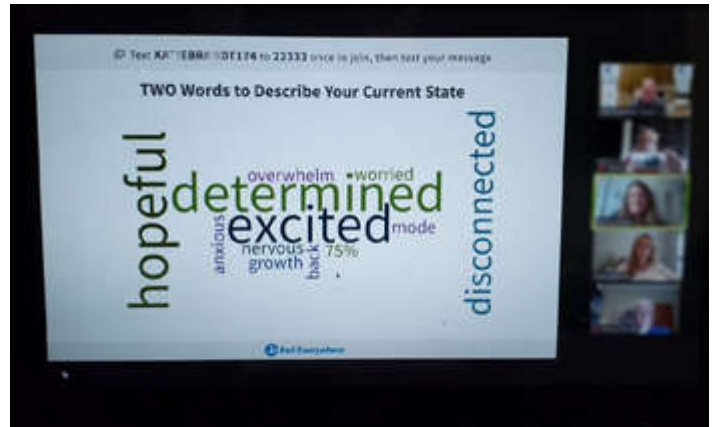
Engaging Video Conference Participants

Recently, while participating in my umpteenth video conference, the presenter surprised attendees with an invite to text responses to a live conference poll. What? Perhaps you have seen or participated in something like this, but it was new to me.

As participants sent key words via text, a word cloud appeared, grew, and morphed reflecting this audience's responses. It was an engaging experience as I watched to see what others submitted and to see if anyone matched my submissions. This was much better than staring at static charts or a screen full of miniature head shots.

Later the presenter posted a multiple-choice poll and the results reflecting our audience's responses soon appeared in a live-action graph.

The live polling was based on an easy to use and competitively priced service from [PollEverywhere](#).



Word Cloud Created During Teleconference

Other News and Notes

June was a busy month at PODI. This month we supported clients with these launches and openings.

Voting for the **Microscopy Society of America**'s 2020 Microscopy Today Micrograph Awards is underway. Each year, talented microscopists from around the world submit their micrographs for consideration in this prestigious competition.

EUCG, Inc. launched its online elections in which members not only vote for the national board, but also cast their ballots for their specific committee leadership. Only members of a committee may vote for its leadership, so this ballot is completely integrated with EUCG's back office database (YourMembership) to ensure the integrity of the election process.

The **Decorative Plumbing and Hardware Association** (DPHA) launched registration for its annual conference scheduled for October in New Orleans. DPHA has contracted for 200% of typical meeting space and instituted a number of additional safety protocols including session mask requirements and 3-person maximum per table at meals.

Annual online elections also launched for the **American Association for Aerosol Research**'s leadership. A variety of seats are being filled through this election including AAAR officers, board members, and working group vice chairs.

For over ten years, **NARST** has been working with PODI to collect proposals for presentations and sessions at their annual international conference. The proposal submission system recently opened in preparation for the 2021 meeting. In the past, submissions to this system have exceeded 1,000 proposals annually!

The **National Association of Senior Move Managers** have launched a certification program to prepare their members for conducting business safely during the COVID-10 pandemic. The COVID-19 Prevention and Safety Excellence program has been well received by their members, who can now proudly display the certification logo as part of their marketing.

To better collect data on international affiliate organizations, the **International Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons** worked with PODI to create a survey system, allowing international councilors to provide IAOMS with this critical data. Fully integrated with the IAOMS back office database (YourMembership), only those users designated within YM have credentials allowing them to input and edit data specific to the offerings within their country.

As part of a multi-year plan to better integrate and utilize their iMIS member database, the **American Podiatric Medical Association** has updated their member profile data form to utilize the iMIS RiSE platform. PODI has been consulting on this project with APMA and this is just one step of many toward their overall goal.

Thanks for reading!

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