

## Board of Governors

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The second meeting of the Board of Governors for 1950 was held on Sunday, April 23, in The Drake hotel, Chicago, preceding by one day the opening of the Society's 67th Semiannual Convention. The Board members reviewed the Society's accomplishments and financial picture for the three months just completed. Plans for future committee activities that are supervised by the Officers and Headquarters Staff were also considered at length.

President Sponable introduced F. E. Carlson and M. G. Townsley, recently appointed Governors from the Central Zone, who had been chosen to fill two recently created Governorships that otherwise would have remained vacant until 1951.

Current activities, reported on by Boyce Nemeck, Executive Secretary, included the Society's programs for test films, memberships and the JOURNAL.

Sales of 16- and 35-mm test films have remained at a high level, continuing to exceed production so that a number of back orders are still on the books. Production forecasts for the immediate future indicate that deliveries will catch up with orders by the third week in July, and after that it should be possible to begin building an inventory of all films. Twenty-four hour service on all orders for reasonable quantities of any of the films is the prime objective.

The engineering committees have had an abiding interest in generally improving technical performance in the 16-mm field. Recently, steps have been taken in this direction to interest service shops, dealers, and distributors of 16-mm projectors in the test films now available from both the Society and the Research Council. Increased distribution and use of all test films is expected and this program deserves the support of all members.

Users of high-speed photography have recently taken great interest in the work of the Society's High-Speed Photography Committee and in the articles on the subject that appeared in the JOURNAL within the past year. Those who contributed to the Committee's 1949 Survey and their associates, who are not now members of the Society, have been invited to join. A considerable increase in membership from this field, which includes all phases of scientific photography, should result. The Board of Governors endorsed this program enthusiastically, and urged that service engineers whose field is the maintenance of theater and television equipment should also be invited to apply for membership. This is being done and there will no doubt be a further increase of membership in all grades from this quarter.

Now that many of the engineering committees are becoming increasingly active, the amount of correspondence, duplicating, mailing and other overhead required to maintain this level of activity is also increasing. A further increase of administrative expenses is attributed to recent improvements in the JOURNAL, stemming from the gradual revision of typography, together with results from current membership promotion, which necessitates a larger print order each month. Fortunately, however, there are compensating factors here, such as reduced unit cost of the JOURNAL brought about by the increased print order, which takes advantage of quantity production economies. The fiscal picture at the end of the first quarter is an encouraging one but actually is only a beginning, compared with what the Society can do if its members will get squarely behind the present membership and test film programs.

Engineering Vice-President Bowditch reviewed briefly the work of the eighteen different engineering committees that are now active, including the reorganization of television work, reported on page 509 of the April JOURNAL. The outcome of this program, which stresses co-operation with the Institute of Radio Engineers and the Radio Manufacturers Association, should be in the direction of more effective committee work in all three organizations with a minimum of effort. Continuing JOURNAL reports on the Society's work in theater television were requested, at least until conclusive action is taken by the FCC.

Editorial Vice-President Keith reported the receipt of two replies to the article on Research Fellowships that had appeared in the February JOURNAL. The Illuminating Engineering Society currently has a committee considering the granting of such Fellowships, and it was suggested that Mr. Keith look into the matter with representatives from the IES.

The recently proposed Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws have received official endorsement, and now the committee, under the Society's Secretary, Robert M. Corbin, responsible for that work, has accepted the job of revising the Administrative Practices. These are a set of Board-approved rules governing in a practical way the operations of Society Headquarters and the Society's many committees. Changes will be recommended in order to bring the Administrative Practices into line with the present Constitution and Bylaws.

The next meeting of the Board of Governors, scheduled for July 26, will be held in New York City. In the meantime, the Sustaining Membership Committee, the Membership and Subscription Committee and Society Headquarters will bend every effort toward increasing support which the Society receives.

## **67th Convention**

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The Society's 67th Convention opened officially on April 24 with a luncheon at The Drake hotel in Chicago. Members who attended the luncheon were treated to a very enthusiastic statement of intentions in theater television presented by Spyros P. Skouras, President of the Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corp. Mr. Skouras indicated with some emphasis that his company intended to proceed with plans to establish a theater television network in a West Coast area without waiting for formal action by the Federal Communications Commission. Arrangements would be made with the local telephone companies for cable service between theaters and the originating point. Action, he stated, would be taken by early 1951.

Attendance at the Convention was more than satisfactory, with over 200 registrants for the week and an additional 100 daily registrants for each of the five days of the week-long meeting.

Outstanding among those attending were four members of the University of Southern California Student Chapter: Algernon Walker, James L. Wilkinson, William R. Kells and Eric T. Sjolander; and Wilbur T. Blume, a member of the USC Faculty. These five members drove from California to Chicago, stopping at universities along the way to inspect motion picture production and visual education facilities.

There was a total of eleven committee meetings held during the week, running from Sunday, April 23 through Saturday, April 29. Future issues of the JOURNAL will carry progress reports on the work of the majority of these committees.