

## 73d Convention, Los Angeles Statler, April 27 – May 1

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The special features of this convention are increasing. Plans have previously been announced for giving special attention to outdoor theaters and for scheduling SMPTE Convention sessions to avoid conflict with the National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters' Seventh Annual Conference which is at the Los Angeles Biltmore, April 28 – May 1.

### Equipment Exhibit

An equipment exhibit will be a feature of this Spring's SMPTE Convention. The hotel has made exhibit space available near the meeting rooms. A questionnaire and application blank are being sent to manufacturers and distributors. Anybody wishing to exhibit new equipment or equipment to be discussed or demonstrated in papers at the Convention should write or wire Tom Gibbons, Minnesota Mining & Mfg. Co., 446 N. LaBrea Ave., Hollywood 36, Calif.

### Three-Dimensional

Plans for consideration of three-dimensional, wide-screen and other current developments may be: one or more papers will be presented to bring out or lead to discussion of particular problems or potentialities; or plans may materialize for an organized panel of speakers, with a

moderator, to cover operational aspects such as: camera design and construction; camera operation in production shooting; laboratory problems in matching color balance, density, etc.; projection problems such as interlocking, and large reel take-up; stereophonic sound; and screen-brightness problems pertinent to stereoscopy.

There may well be some reports on SMPTE standardization and engineering activities in the stereo and related fields.

### Reservations

The Convention announcement card, giving the general plan of the sessions and the tear-off postal for hotel reservations is scheduled to be mailed on March 2. There are indications that hotel rooms may be in short supply, so those who can now plan their attendance should write for reservations to: Mr. Thomas O'Hara, Front Office Manager, Hotel Statler, Wilshire Blvd. and Figueroa St., Los Angeles, Calif. Rates are:

Single . . . . .	\$ 7.00 to \$14.00
Double . . . . .	9.50 to 14.00
Twin . . . . .	12.00 to 16.00
Parlor Suites	
(one bedroom) . . . . .	19.00 to 34.00
Parlor Suites	
(two bedrooms) . . . . .	21.50 to 34.00

## Board of Governors Meeting

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At the January meeting of the Society's Board of Governors, there were the required reports which are the record of what is past and there were the projected dollars and ideas budgets for 1953 and more.

Reporting in person on the activities and responsibilities for their respective offices were: Herbert Barnett, John W. Servies, Henry J. Hood, Barton Kreuzer and William H. Offenhauser, Jr. Reports of the other officers were read for them. The complete roster of SMPTE officers and governors is given on the inside back cover of each *Journal*.

Accomplishments of 1952 are already largely available to the membership in the

form of the conventions and meetings held, the standards and engineering reports and the *Journals* published. The record of the business, financial and membership activities will appear again this year in the April *Journal*.

A detailed operations report was given by Boyce Nemeec. The relationships of types of income and expenditures were reviewed, with Gordon Chambers, a new Governor, analyzing the need for continuing to chart graphically activities proposals and expenditures. The salient points from the operations report are reflected throughout the programs noted below.

## Engineering

Little will be said here: projects planned and in progress are reported regularly in the *Journal* by the Staff Engineer. Henry Hood presented to the Board drafts of four Standards which were approved for transmittal to ASA. These proposed standards have appeared in the *Journal* and will be published as final when approved by the ASA. The advice and approval of the Board were sought regarding enlarging the scope of the Screen Brightness Committee. The new scope will appear in the April *Journal* when the complete roster of SMPTE Committees is published.

Charles Townsend outlined several aspects of engineering related to television and film to which he suggested the Society should be certain to give attention. Axel Jensen clarified for the Board the duties and functions of the Joint Committee for Inter-Society Coordination which works to avoid overlapping of efforts among this Society, the Institute of Radio Engineers, Radio and Television Mfrs. Assn. and the National Assn. of Radio and Television Broadcasters.

## Publications

Norwood Simmons' Editorial Vice-President's report was read, noting the excellent and vital work of Arthur C. Downes, Chairman, and the Board of Editors. Hard work by 1952's Convention Program Chairmen Geo. W. Colburn and Joe Aiken, with real help from the Papers Committee Vice-Chairmen, especially John Waddell for the International Symposium on High-Speed Photography, not only produced well-attended sessions but also apparently reversed the trend toward a smaller volume of worthy papers for the *Journal*. Greater and more varied efforts by the Papers Committee are expected to produce an increasing volume of material which the membership wants. Those wants will be better known when the results of the Membership Service Questionnaire are tabulated.

On the basis of hopes for a reasonably greater volume of worthy *Journal* material for 1953, a budget was approved for 1328 pp.

## Conventions

Jack Servies reported that he felt that the Spring Convention is in good hands and that all information from Hollywood thus far indicates a large, varied and successful convention. News of developing plans appear in each *Journal's* story about the 73d Convention.

## Sections

A report for the Atlantic Coast Section was read by its new Chairman, William H. Offenhauser, Jr. Reports for the other sections were also read. An increased budget was put forth in view of the accomplishments of 1952 and the plans for 1953, some of which are noted below in President Barnett's announced program.

Geo. W. Colburn observed that the occasional reports of section meetings in the *Journal* had been very well received. It was agreed that a program of publishing the sections' quarterly reports, or preferably monthly meeting reports, would help keep the membership informed. Two such reports appear in this issue.

## New Plans

So that the Society will be prepared, when it can afford such a program, the Board approved the appointment of a committee to examine the advisability of extending the Society's activities in order to promote more effectively the purposes for which this Society was founded, and particularly to examine the advisability of the Society's engaging in, promoting or financing scientific research, research fellowships and such other scientific projects directly promotive of the purposes of the Society.

From the report by President Barnett, we have abstracted the introduction and the six points in the Society's program as it is presently expanded:

The importance of long-range film and television engineering is exemplified by the film industry's thorough preparation for FCC theater television hearings that were renewed on January 26, and the list of well-qualified witnesses scheduled to appear, as an outgrowth of three earlier theater television channel appeals presented before FCC by the Society. Experimental channels secured by SMPTE gave studio and theater companies an

opportunity to determine by actual practice the form that a national theater television service might take. Also, the current public interest stimulated by three-dimensional pictures, Cinerama, new types of screens and other dramatic innovations likely to appear are the result of many years of research and development.

Improved public relations are needed by SMPTE to insure that engineers new to motion pictures and television are made aware of engineering services and standards information available from the Society. These six points are especially emphasized in the expanded program:

1. Form new SMPTE subsections in cities where film and television engineers need help and stimulation from joint meetings.

2. Offer counseling assistance to colleges and universities interested in preparing engineering students for careers in motion pictures and television.

3. Find gaps in the published engineering literature and offer assistance in filling them.

4. Invite more active participation from

other technical societies, trade associations and cultural groups in technical activities, and through these channels encourage educational use of motion pictures, television and theater television.

5. Publish special engineering studies for the benefit of businessmen, engineers and operating personnel, giving information on the functions, applications and effects of current technical developments.

6. The Society's public relations activities must emphasize (a) the need for special training of young engineers for work in motion pictures, (b) the need for improved technical quality in classroom motion pictures and in the manner of presentation, (c) the need for improved technical quality of films made for television to avoid a bad trade reaction that would adversely affect future markets for such films and (d) the need for television broadcasters, motion picture companies and theater circuits to be constantly on the lookout for new products and processes available commercially or through research and development programs which they wholly or partially support.—V.A.

## Pacific Coast Section Meeting

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The first Pacific Coast Section meeting of 1953 was held on Tuesday evening, January 20, at the Filmcraft Television Theater, Hollywood, with an audience of approximately 400. The program featured "Rapid Drying of Normally Processed Black-and-White Motion Picture Films" by F. Dana Miller, Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester, N.Y., which was presented at the 72d Semiannual Convention at Washington and repeated here for the benefit of local members who had not attended the Convention.

Dr. Karl Freund, President of Photo-Research Corp., read a paper describing a newly developed direct-reading photoelectric brightness meter. The meter was demonstrated and various expected applications of the instrument were mentioned, including measurement of motion picture screen brightness, set illumination and kinescope brightness or contrast.

In a progress paper on Eidophor, the new system for color theater television,

Lorin D. Grignon discussed engineering developments in the Eidophor research program to date. Results of the first practical theater demonstrations of the Eidophor were described, as well as some of the problems which have been uncovered by these demonstrations. Members asked Mr. Grignon practical questions regarding future application of Eidophor and there was a very favorable general reaction, with enthusiasm for the technical knowledge that was made available.

Membership Chairman J. W. Duvall distributed approximately 100 application blanks at the meeting. A show of hands revealed that 25% of those attending were not members. It is our hope that the new year will bring a sizable aggregate of new membership.

The February meeting will feature a vital current topic — stereo-photography.

—Philip G. Caldwell, Secretary-Treasurer, Pacific Coast Section.