

Message from the President

Anniversaries are special occasions in our lives. It is a time to reflect on our histories — and SMPTE has a proud history. Starting with ten engineers in 1916, we have grown to one of the world's most respected organizations, with more than 9000 members. And yet, during that growth, the aims of the founders have remained unchanged: "... advancement in the theory and practice of motion picture engineering and the allied arts and sciences; the standardization of the mechanisms and the practices employed therein; and the maintenance of high professional standing among its members."

Anniversaries are also proper times to look to the future. We are now entering a new frontier of imaging and sound technologies. While the medium of motion-picture film continues to improve and grow, the video and electronic signals are now expanding into uses not imagined a few years ago. The SMPTE will provide the engineering talent and structure for important, critical standardization.

The SMPTE has also embarked upon an ambitious campaign to provide education to our members and to the industry as a whole. With tutorials and workshops,



we now offer the knowledge needed for those entering our industries, as well as those desiring to expand their careers.

We should be proud of our 75 years of growth and service. Personally, I'm honored by the privilege of serving as your President during this anniversary year.

— Blaine Baker

Introduction

As the SMPTE reaches its diamond anniversary this year, there is good cause for celebration. Given the vast technological changes that have occurred since 1916, the Society's ability to adapt to these changes is an outstanding achievement. The Society has not only survived but flourished in an era when many of the companies that were active in the industry in the early days no longer exist. Yet the Society continues and it is stronger than ever.

This issue of the *Journal*, published exactly 75 years after the Society's founding in July 1916, seeks to highlight the Society itself. We have seen histories of motion pictures and television elsewhere, including the pages of previous *Journals*. Here, however, we want to emphasize the Society and the contributions it has made to motion pictures and television.

As an employee of the SMPTE for more than 26 years, I have met many talented and interesting people in the Society. What has impressed me is the important role the Society has played in the lives of many members and, at the same time, the

importance of certain members to the success of the Society.

In this commemorative issue of the *Journal*, there are two articles on individuals who have made contributions to the Society. The first provides recollections of former SMPTE presidents who have led the Society and helped it attain the excellent reputation it now enjoys. The second offers reminiscences and comments of those who achieved eminence in their careers and who also gave to the Society their time and expertise in a variety of ways. What these two articles reveal about these individuals is their fondness for the Society and the value membership in the Society has had for them in their professional lives.

The *SMPTE Journal*, as the primary link between the Society and its members, dedicates this issue to the members past and present, who have contributed to the success of what has always been the foremost organization serving the technologies of motion pictures and television.

— Jeffrey Friedman
Editor