

The Journal's Peer Review System

The *SMPTE Journal* enjoys a reputation for publishing consistently high-quality technical papers. The primary reason for the *Journal's* excellent standing lies within its system of selecting editorial material.

The *SMPTE Journal* is a peer reviewed publication. That means that all technical papers submitted to the SMPTE are reviewed by members of the SMPTE's Board of Editors, and only the best are selected for publication.

Board of Editors

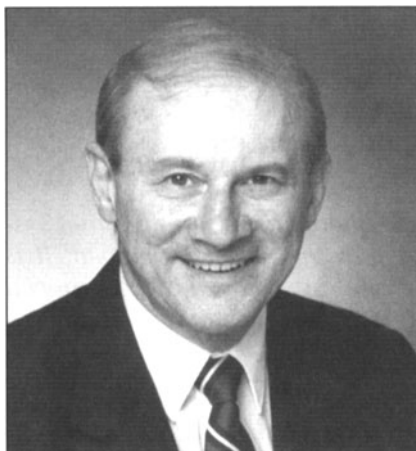
The Board of Editors is made up of recognized experts in the technologies of television, motion pictures, and allied imaging disciplines. There are 35 members of the Board of Editors in addition to the Chairman.

The SMPTE is fortunate to have LeRoy DeMarsh, retired from Eastman Kodak, as Chairman of the Board of Editors. Mr. DeMarsh is one of the most highly respected scientists in the motion-imaging field.

It is the responsibility of the Chairman of the Board of Editors to read all papers submitted to the *Journal*, which number well over 150 a year. He selects four reviewers for each paper, based on the reviewers' areas of expertise. Occasionally a paper requires special scrutiny. This review is particularly important in accommodating rapidly changing technology, where newer disciplines may not be fully represented on the Board of Editors. The Chairman asks nonmember experts to evaluate certain papers. This ensures that every paper gets a thorough examination by people qualified to evaluate it.

After the selection of reviewers is made, Marilyn Waldman of the Editorial Department sends out copies of the papers to the selected reviewers. Each paper is accompanied by a review form, which the reviewer is asked to fill out after reading the paper.

Each reviewer rates the paper on a scale from 5 to 10, with 10 being excellent and 5 being unacceptable. There are four basic criteria on which the paper is rated: technical content, value



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of information, quality of writing, and interest.

Reviewers do more than evaluate papers. They make valuable suggestions that often substantially improve the papers. Because of their expertise, members of the Board of Editors are able to make sure that every paper is as good as it can be. More often than not, reviewers return corrected manuscripts with their evaluation forms.

After evaluating the papers, the reviewers return the forms to the Editorial Department. When all the reviews for a paper have come in, the paper and its evaluations are reviewed and, if the evaluations are good, the paper is made available for *Journal* publication. Because of the thoroughness of the evaluations, fewer than 50% of the papers that are reviewed are published.

Publication

When a paper is selected for publication, it goes through a substantial copyediting process, during which the changes recommended by the reviewers are noted and style and grammatical changes are made.

The paper is then returned to the author with the recommended changes. To maintain the integrity of the peer review process, the names of the reviewers are not disclosed. Complete anonymity is always maintained. After the author makes the necessary corrections and approves the final version, the paper is then scheduled for publication.

This system has proven highly successful in maintaining the high quality of *Journal* papers.

Importance of Volunteers

This system, however, depends upon the efforts of many volunteers, who give of their time to make sure that those papers that are published provide the Society's members with an accurate report of the advances in the motion-picture and television arts and sciences. In return, the members of the Board of Editors are provided with an opportunity to review work done by others in their field very early in the process, often months before the results are published. The experience is rewarding in two ways. First, the members of the Board of Editors are investing their time in themselves to some degree, because the process provides them with educational opportunities. Second, the members of the Board receive some satisfaction knowing that they are making a contribution to the general fund of knowledge within the industry.

The members of the Board of Editors reflect the broad spectrum of interests within the Society. Some of the members have strong design and development background in motion pictures and/or television, whereas others have broad user practice and application experience.

The membership of the Board of Editors is always experiencing a shortage of volunteers, caused by the Society's expanding into newer areas of technology and the retirement of some members of the Board of Editors. I invite the members of the Society, each and every one of you, to consider volunteering to serve on this Board. I find it a worthwhile expenditure of my time. It is one of the techniques I use to keep current with the changes in the state of the art. If you wish to volunteer or have questions about the Board of Editors, a call to either Tom Bentsen, SMPTE Editorial Vice-President, at 1-202-358-1704; LeRoy DeMarsh, Chairman of the Board of Editors, at 1-716-865-3136; or Jeff Friedman, Editor of the *Journal*, at 1-914-761-1100, will provide you with positive results.

— Stanley N. Baron

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