

## SMPTE ENGINEERING

Many SMPTE activities are easy to see. They live on the surface and are readily evident in publications, conferences, presentations, meetings, papers sessions, section meetings, and at exhibitions. But underpinning all of this is a worldwide, respected, established, and important set of Standards and Engineering activities that, except for those directly involved, generally takes place underground and is unknown, unappreciated and, usually, unsung.

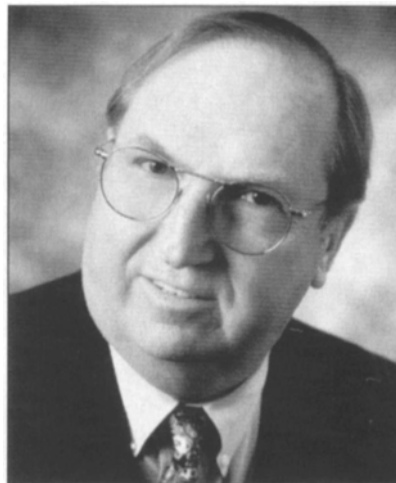
Over the past several years successive Engineering Vice-Presidents have labored to streamline engineering and standards-making practices to reflect the accelerated demands of a modern motion imaging world in which constant change and evolution is, indeed, the most stable condition. An inability to perform in this environment would render SMPTE engineering activities ineffective and unimportant, and relegate the Society to a marginal role within the industry. While the extensive and effective set of changes and improvements that have been made have gone largely unheralded, their results, as recently reported by Engineering Vice-President Bill Miller at the June Board of Governors meeting, are impressive and speak volumes about the process.

What he reported in Denver was that, "In the six months ending May 30, 1997, the Engineering Department approved, revised, or reaffirmed 11 Standards, 21 Recommended Practices, and 4 Engineering Guidelines. That's more than were produced in all of 1996. A number of other Standards have been approved by the Society and are awaiting approval by ANSI." This is an impressive performance indeed. And it is reflective of the continued importance of your Society in technological matters and of the recognition and support of this activity by, mainly, our Sustaining Members.

Your Society maintains 182 SMPTE/ANSI Standards for motion pictures and television, 150 Recommended Practices, and 29 Engineering Guidelines that have been developed by various committees. Each document is reviewed at least every five years and must be reconfirmed, revised, or withdrawn at that time. We also serve as Secretariat for ISO/TC 36 - Cinematography, developing and maintaining over 100 more International Standards in that area. Additionally, Proposed Standards are now being posted on our web site for public comment. And the site continues to receive about 50,000 hits per month.

Under the direction of Bill Miller, 58 Engineering Committees involving some 700 individual volunteers meet regularly to transact engineering business. September, for example, saw about 30 such meetings held in various parts of the world.

Engineering activities are governed by Administrative Practices Section XIII. For more information on what's going on, browse SMPTE's web site [[www.smpte.org](http://www.smpte.org)]. And to become involved in this extensive and professionally rewarding activity, contact Bill Miller, Carl Girod, or any of the Committee chairs listed there. As you can see, there is much to be done and I know they would appreciate your input and support.



David L. George

SMPTE President David L. George is with IMMAD Broadcast Services, Markham, Ontario, Canada, L3R 0H3.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. George', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.