

As I look back on my two years as President, I'd like to think that I have contributed something to the professionalism, strength, and focus of the Society during my term, and to improving both its relevance to the industry and service to its members. But if I did achieve these goals, I did not accomplish anything alone; throughout my term I have received considerable help.

Chief among those that made it possible for me to contribute was your Executive Director, Fred Motts, who, along with his very capable staff, efficiently and effectively polished and implemented my directions, and those of the Board, and kept me consistently informed and up to date. In line with our strategy to have the Society rely less on volunteer activity and more on professional management, Fred also directly addressed several SMPTE activities and obligations that formerly had been attended to by the President or another senior elected official, strictly on a volunteer basis. His overall effectiveness as Executive Director has also made it possible to encourage other senior industry people to consider serving SMPTE at the Board and Executive level, as the commitment involved is once again tolerable to both the volunteer and his or her employer. This will also make it easier for them, and you, to participate more fully in the Society, at any level, in the future.

I have also been surrounded by a superb group of Vice-Presidents and Directors during my term. These executives have taken responsibility for, and ably administered, their own departments as well as contributing significantly to the overall direction and operation of the Society. Your Engineering, Editorial, Conference, and Sections Vice-Presidents, especially, have provided outstanding service, as have several others. Similarly, you have elected a competent slate of Governors who have willingly shared their experience and expertise with us and often taken on other responsibilities as well. A special debt is owed the Board of Editors of the Society and the many Engineering volunteers and specialists. In many ways these latter groups are the true custodians of the very soul of the Society and its information and standardization activities.

The public face of the Society, to many, remains the local Section. I was the beneficiary of the activities of an energetic group of Member and Student Sections during my term. From these groups will come the

future Governors, Executives, and Presidents of the Society and it is rewarding to me to see them displaying such vitality and talent.

I joined SMPTE primarily to be with other members, to have the opportunity to share my interest in this industry

with them, and to learn from them. As you know, I have always been an admirer of SMPTE as an organization and I hold fellow members in the highest regard. I have met, and had the opportunity to rub shoulders with, some very impressive people within this Society, and for that I am grateful. Many of these have become good friends and some very willing mentors; all have helped and supported me in my career. These were benefits of membership I had not anticipated when I first joined and I want, personally, to thank these members for their consistent help and support.

Over the years, I sought increasing responsibilities within the Society in order to return some of what I received from my SMPTE membership and to continue the chain of support that I had so unselfishly received. I found that involvement at this level was also very rewarding and provided a very positive experience overall. As a result, I owe special thanks to the many Governors, Executives, and staff with whom I had the opportunity to work over the years.

But mostly I want to thank you, the members of the Society, for your trust and confidence and for granting me the privilege to serve as your President for these past two years. I assure you that they were years filled with memories I shall not soon forget—and I trust that they were good for you too.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D. George', written in a cursive style.

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