

SMPTE NEWS & NOTES

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ANNUAL SMPTE CONFERENCE AND EXHIBIT A BIG SUCCESS

SMPTE's 139th Technical Conference and Exhibit held on November 21 to 24, 1997, drew impressive numbers as more than 5,000 people attended the four day event. The conference featured ten educational sessions, two panel discussions, 83 exhibits and a day-long seminar. The seminar was of great interest to conference participants as an estimated 600 engineers attended the program titled "Implementing DTV: Practical Issues for Engineers, Managers, Producers, and Content Owners."

The paper sessions, focussing on "Film and Video Origination in the Era of DTV Broadcast and Distribution," presented a forum for the world's engineering leaders, owners and operators, and station managers to share ideas and educate their peers on new developments for digital television. The wide range of conference interest was exhibited as more than 70 companies from 25 countries presented papers.

Conference registrants were given a sneak preview of future digital technologies by an extensive list of exhibitors showcasing their products.

The Society also recognized several members for their achievements in the engineering field during the Honors and Awards Reception and elevated 13 members to the rank of Fellow.

Further details on the successful conference are included in this month's *SMPTE Journal*.

SECOND ANNUAL SMPTE FILM CONFERENCE

Be sure to make reservations for the Society's Second Annual Film Conference scheduled for June 12-14, 1998. The three day event will provide professionals with a forum for disseminating information and ideas. The program follows the theme "Tools, Practice, and the Experience" and consists of a day-long seminar and four technical sessions.

The seminar, titled "The Nature of Film," begins the conference on June 12. Technical sessions will be held on Saturday and Sunday June 13 and 14. Session subjects over the two day period include "Production," "Post-Production," "Laboratory," and "Exhibition." Additional conference information is included in this month's issue of the *SMPTE Journal*.

SMPTE BENEFITS PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

In July of 1997, the Society published information on the SMPTE Group Insurance Program offered through Seabury & Smith. After several months of work, the Society is in the process of finalizing the benefits package. Through the program, members can apply for a wide range of life, disability, and health insurance coverage. Listed below are the various types of insurance packages offered by the Society accompanied by brief descriptions.

The Group Term Life Insurance plan offers members the opportunity to apply for as much as \$300,000 of coverage. The coverage is available in a wide range of benefit options and may be used as basic life insurance or to supplement insurance already used by members.

The SMPTE High-Limit Accident Plan offers members under age 70 up to \$500,000 of worldwide, 24-hour accident coverage. In addition to a Members-Only Plan, a Family Plan provides spouse and dependent children benefits. All insureds are covered whether on the job, at home, while traveling, or on vacation. Under the Disability Income Plan, members under the age of 59 are offered up to \$5,000 a month in benefits. Members between ages 60 and 64 may apply for as much as \$1,500 per month in benefits.

The Comprehensive HealthCare Plan is beneficial to members without employer-paid medical insurance who wish to purchase a health care plan with benefits for a wide range of expenses. The Excess Major Medical Plan is designed as a supplement to basic medical insurance plans, offering protection against the expense of a catastrophic accident or illness. Under the In-Hospital Plan, members and their families are provided supplemental income in the event of a hospital stay. Benefits are paid for each day of hospitalization and may be used to help pay for expenses not covered by most health plans. The Medicare Supplement Plan helps senior members and their spouses pay health costs not covered by Medicare.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM BENEFITS

Program members will also receive discounts on NordicTrack products, Avis and National rental cars, Special Travel products, and hotel accommodations from Howard Johnson, Ramada, Travelodge, and the Days Inn. A list of savings percentages can be accessed on SMPTE's web site (www.smppte.org).

You can contact SMPTE group insurance administrators by writing to Administrator, SMPTE Group Insurance Program, 255 23rd St., NW, Ste. 300, Washington, DC 20037. You can also call the toll free number, (800) 424-9883 or e-mail the Society at smppte@smppte.org. A detailed description of the program is posted on the Society web site.

MIGLIORE RECOGNIZED FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Elizabeth Migliore was recently honored by the Society for her 25 years of dedicated service. Migliore joined SMPTE on November 13, 1972, as engineering secretary. Since then, her responsibilities in the engineering department have broadened. Most important is the preparation of the American National Standards, SMPTE Recommended Practices, and SMPTE Engineering Guidelines. She also maintains the Society's Standard Subscription Service.

—Jermaine Hall

This information is available at the SMPTE Web Site: <http://www.smppte.org>.

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