

AN APPEAL FROM THE EDITORIAL VICE-PRESIDENT

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Editorial is one of the four visible volunteer areas of SMPTE: Conference, Engineering, and Sections being the other three. The Editorial Department is comprised of a group of dedicated employees at headquarters who work to assemble publications and conference programs from submissions and information supplied by the most important group in the society, its members. The Editorial staff is small, and depends on the generosity of volunteer members. We rely on volunteers to staff the Board of Editors, to chair conferences, organize conference sessions, and generate and present material at conferences. Does that sound like a lot? It is.

By the end of this year, the Editorial Department and volunteer members will have successfully programmed the 34th Advanced Motion Imaging Conference, an all-day seminar at NAB, an all-day seminar at IBC, and the 142nd Technical Conference. In addition, we will have published 12 issues of the *Journal*, the *Membership Directory*, and *Proceedings* for the two conferences. The Board of Editors will have reviewed over 125 submissions for the *Journal*.

How many volunteers does it take to screw in a light bulb? It depends if the volunteers want light. Of course, that doesn't stop them from complaining about the dark. It takes about 30 volunteer members to organize the program for a fall conference. The Board of Editors consists of fewer than 60 members.

The SMPTE Journal

The primary source of *Journal* material is the conference proceedings. Only 60 to 80% of conference presentations are submitted in manuscript form for publication. The Editorial staff regularly responds to complaints and questions regarding issues with the content of the conferences and the *Journal*: Why isn't there more of one topic? When will you publish material on this topic? Don't you know there is a lot of interesting work being done in this area? The answer is, we would be glad to publish articles in any area—if we are given the material.

I hear comments that it takes too much time for an article to go through the review process. It takes four people from the Board of Editors with knowledge in the area of the submission to review a paper. We have fewer than 60 editors covering such topics as film, video, computer graphics, networking, data, archiving, and asset management. The math is simple. When appropriate we identify special submissions and "fast-track" some papers to expedite the process.

We also treat papers differently depending on their type: technical, tutorial, applications/practices, or point of view. *Journal* papers do not have to describe pure engineering work. We are eager to publish points of view and applications from, for example, cinematographers and directors. These points of view help engineers understand technology requirements and how they are being applied.



Volunteers Needed

Simply put, we need more volunteer help. The minimum contribution (time) level is participation on the Board of Editors. Editorial volunteers need only contribute an average of 2 to 4 hours a month. Ironically, the more volunteers, the less time required to contribute. Leroy DeMarsh chairs the Board of Editors and would be thrilled to see it grow to 200 active participants with diverse backgrounds. At that level, the 2 to 4 hours per month would only be required a couple of months a year.

The next level of contribution is by far the most important—generating a presentation for a conference or the *Journal*. Education and communication of ideas are among the foundations of the Society. Publishing in the *Journal* or presenting at a conference is each member's way of helping develop a technology or process. However, if your paper is not selected for a conference, do not take that to mean that it is considered unimportant or not valuable. Conferences have limited time and scope, therefore, hard decisions must be made as to what submissions to include. The *Journal* does not suffer from these limitations. We will publish as many papers as are available.

Another volunteer contribution is conference session chair. The effort involved can be light or intensive depending on the number of submissions for the conference. Your work will be spread over about ten months, with most of the time being spent reviewing submissions and developing the session after the call for papers. Next are the conference program chairs, who are charged with selecting program and session topics, finding session chairs, and coordinating their work. This time commitment is spread out over about a year, with the peak times at the beginning, selecting session topics and chairpersons, and during the submission review with the session chairs.

Editorial Directors

At the top of the contribution list are the Motion Picture and Television Editorial Directors. These two positions are selected by the Editorial Vice-President and assist with various matters in their respective areas. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alan Masson of Kodak and Robert Seidel of CBS for all the time and effort they have contributed over the last two years as Editorial Directors.

Acknowledgment

The point is, SMPTE is only as strong as its members. To those of you who already contribute to the Society's activities, thank you for your continuing support. To those who have not, we appreciate your membership and appeal to you to support the editorial activities of SMPTE.