

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Charles Jablonski

The Journey

"Have you paid your SMPTE dues?" the voice said on the other end of the telephone. "Of course," I replied, "Why?" Oh, we're just looking at some potential candidates for the Local Section Board of Managers. It's not a big deal, just one meeting a month and maybe a few phone calls," replied Bob Smith, a former SMPTE President (1979-80). I should have known! Needless to say, that conversation almost 20 years ago started my active participation in SMPTE activities, which has led to the privilege of serving the Society as President for the past two years. During the past two decades, I have witnessed the Society manage the transition from analog to digital, incorporate "new" media and imaging into its charter; evolve into a digital "tapeless" media, through various analog and digital videotape formats; embrace electronic imaging and production; and expand its reach internationally while continuing to maintain its leadership position in the area of motion imaging.

Foremost, I urge you, the members, to maintain your interest and participation in the Society. You are the Society! It reflects your needs, desires, and interests. SMPTE is about to enter its annual election cycle for Local Section Officers and Managers, and if you should be as fortunate as I was to receive a call asking for your involvement in a Section please consider it. Local Sections are the backbone of SMPTE and the source of its greatest strength and resources. Virtually all Governors and Officers started their journey in the Local Sections and the various activities of these Sections are most rewarding and fulfilling.

Further, I ask you to consider mentoring and introducing other industry professionals into the Society or increase their involvement in our activities: you may recruit a co-worker; encourage a fellow member to get involved at the Section level; or ask an industry peer to write or present a paper, participate in a SMPTE Conference or event, or work with you on an engineering committee. If you think back, your involvement with SMPTE probably started with an introduction or suggestion of an associate. As with any organization, our most valuable and differentiating resources are our peers. As a volunteer Society this is what makes it work, grow, and expand.

It would be remiss for me not to acknowledge all the individuals who have made my journey pleasurable, rewarding, and fulfilling. It began with Bob Smith, who involved me in the New York Section, which led to participation in a range of activities such as the annual conferences, via Irwin Young, another former president (1993-94). At that point in my SMPTE journey, the President Chuck Andersen (1981-82) pulled me aside at the Los Angeles Conference and indicated that it was important for



a new crop of younger members to get involved. My employer, NBC, also wanted to increase its participation in engineering standardization and further its understanding of the rapidly evolving digital technology. I was given an assignment to participate in SMPTE's activities in the area of digital signal and tape standards. Through these activities I received the best education ever in technology and the industry through the guidance and advice of people like Stan Baron (then chair of the digital standardization efforts and destined to become Engineering Vice-

President and later President (1995-96)) and S. Merrill Weiss. I owe them my thanks for introducing me to the world of engineering standardization and technology within the Society.

It goes without saying that the generous support of NBC, and its senior O & E executive, Mike Sherlock, at that time, allowed me to grow and support the Society. For those of you in positions to support SMPTE activities, we extend our gratitude and suggest that support yields benefits in many areas both in the long and short-term.

In addition to the engineering committees, I participated in the financial affairs of SMPTE through the Financial Advisory Committee, courtesy of Blaine Baker, then Financial Vice-President and destined to be President (1991-92). The next step in my journey was election to the Board of Governors, due to the activities of the President Maurice French (1989-90), and another former president Carlos Kennedy (1987-88) (hmm, there seems to be a pattern...), followed by my election to Financial Vice-President, which led to Executive Vice-President and then President.

SMPTE is fortunate to have a superb leadership team on the Executive Committee, and I know that I leave the organization in the excellent hands of John Mason and Gavin Schutz, who will carry on.

Finally, my message would not be complete without mentioning the SMPTE professional staff at Headquarters, which includes past Executive Director Lynn Robinson, and Director of Engineering Si Becker, who made my assignments and tasks possible. From the mundane details to the sense of history and necessity, none of this would have been possible without the staff. This tradition continues with our current staff under the direction of Fred Motts.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for their support, work, and guidance over the past 20 years and urge all of you to engage in the Society and its activities, by finding as many people as possible to introduce and mentor.

Now, it is time for me to start making those phone calls for the nominating committee...It's only one meeting a month and a couple of phone calls...