

## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

### Edward Hobson

The Secretary/Treasurer of SMPTE has a number of duties prescribed by the Constitution, Bylaws, and Administrative Practices. Key duties involve overseeing the Society's records, and, of course, the fiduciary responsibility of the Society's funds. SMPTE's annual operating budget now exceeds \$1 million. The Secretary/Treasurer works with the Financial Vice-President, Financial Advisory Committee, Executive Director, and Headquarters Staff to administer the finances of the Society. In addition to the day-to-day operating funds, SMPTE maintains a reserve fund. This

fund, financed from our normal activities, is meant to provide a fallback position in case of a shortfall in revenue and is maintained at a level to see the Society through about a two-year operating period. Your Board of Governors has voted to maintain the reserve fund in high-quality, insured instruments—U.S. Treasury Bills and insured Money Market deposits. Proceeds from the reserve fund have been used recently for a number of capital improvement projects at Headquarters, including an update of the telephone system, ongoing computer system infrastructure enhancements, and work on our building. But enough on the financial side.

Record keeping duties have been a major activity of late. As outlined in a number of previous month's messages from my fellow Executive Committee members, the Society has made important changes in the organization. When originally established, SMPTE, then the SMPE, was largely a U.S.-based film engineering and standards organization. International growth quickly followed;



Edward Hobson

however, it wasn't until relatively recently that your Board voted to provide for direct election of International Governors, which required changes to the Constitution and the Administrative Practices. I am proud to have been part of the Board that saw fit to bring representation of our International members to fruition. Membership, as René Villeneuve indicated in the *April Journal*, is important to the Society's growth and well being. Participation by international members in electing their representatives on the Board is key to insuring the Society's goal of being a truly

international organization and providing services that are important to our members worldwide. Of course, it is also important that our international members participate in the governance of the Society and stand for election.

The Society has also been modifying procedures for committee work. We recently enacted changes that enable us to perform more of our work via the Internet and allow observers to work with various technology and engineering standards committees, while maintaining our due process system. This work entailed a major revision of the Administrative Practices and was completed under the leadership of Bill Miller, Engineering Vice-President, and fully supported by your Board of Governors.

Finally, I'd like to thank the membership and the Board of Governors for their support as we move SMPTE forward in the coming decades.

—Edward Hobson

# Reaching SMPTE Electronically

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