

Biographical Note

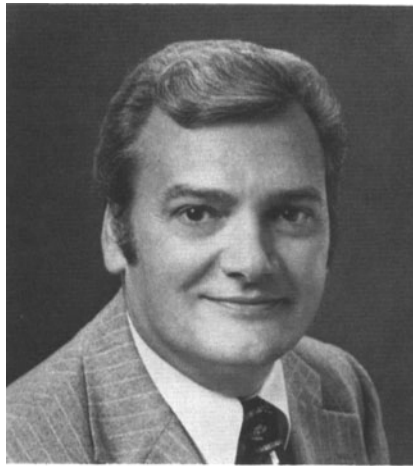
Edward J. Messina, Jr. SMPTE Governor New York Region 1984-1985

Edward J. Messina, Jr., director of film services, broadcast operations and engineering, ABC Television, is an SMPTE Governor for the New York Region. In his present post with ABC, he is responsible for feature film post-production editing for the network and WABC-TV, as well as technical film support for video enterprises, pictures international, and television video sales.

Messina began his career in 1952 as a cameraman in the U.S. Navy. He then worked for two years for Eastman Kodak as a processing technician and the following two years for Pathé Color as supervisor of the Film Processing Dept. Before joining ABC in 1963, as assistant director of news film operations, he spent a year with Thiokol (Reactions Motors Div.) as chief cameraman and five years with the U.S. Naval Air Test Facility, Lakehurst, N.J., as manager of the Photometric Branch, responsible for scientific photography.

Messina joined the SMPTE in 1959 and was made a Fellow in 1973. He served as manager of the New York Section from 1970 to 1972, secretary-treasurer in 1973, and chairman for the 1974-1975 term. He served as an SMPTE Governor from 1974 through 1980. He has been a member of a number of SMPTE administrative and technical committees and has served as chairman of several of them. His services to the SMPTE include various positions in connection with the technical conferences, among them hotel arrangements chairman at the 111th Conference; conference chairman, 118th; program co-chairman, 120th; and administrative assistant, 122nd. His wife Sophia (Sue), over the years, has taken an active part in the Spouses programs.

Messina's hobbies include wood-working, at which he is skilled. He can



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make furniture, usually at the request of his wife; however, one of the most delightful aspects of his hobby is his interest in Early American folk art. In Colonial days, our forefathers amused themselves and also seriously applied their artistic talents to carving wooden figures. They carved representations of animals, heads, objects, children, anything that caught their fancy. Some of these carvings were crudely painted, and all of them are interesting to collectors of Americana. Messina delights in cutting figures of which these early carvings are

the ancestors. He has not, so far, attempted a modern version of the traditional cigar-store wooden Indian, but his mastery of the craft of wood-working is a rewarding hobby.

In response to a query as to his thoughts about the SMPTE, he said that he regards his membership in the SMPTE as one of the truly important influences in his life. One of the greatest benefits the Society offers its membership, he said, is that of access to the top experts in motion-picture and/or television technology. "The answer to your question," he tells SMPTE members, "is no farther away than your telephone." By that he means, he explained, that confronted with a problem, the SMPTE member can phone a knowledgeable colleague in the Society and receive helpful information.

"Founded in 1916 with 10 members," he said, "its prestige and influence now are recognized throughout the world. The standards it has worked to establish have benefitted the entire industry. Of prime importance to its members is the dissemination of technological information through conferences, through the pages of the *SMPTE Journal*, and by contact with knowledgeable individuals."



Active Member Status

Many associate members of the SMPTE may now be eligible for active membership, particularly those who first joined the Society when they were under 25 years of age.

Although the dues are the same for active and associate membership, the benefits of active membership are many and allow for greater participation in the Society. An active member is able to vote on matters presented to the membership and is eligible to hold office and chair committees. Active membership is also a prerequisite for becoming a Fellow of the Society.

Associate members are urged to review their qualifications with the idea of upgrading their membership status to that of active member. To make this change in membership grade, associate members should resubmit an application form showing updated qualifications and the signatures of two sponsoring members. Applications can be obtained from local section membership chairmen or from Josephine LaVecchia, Manager of Membership Services, SMPTE Headquarters, 862 Scarsdale Ave., Scarsdale, NY 10583.