
SMPTE Sections Training Seminar

Toronto, May 2, 1986

The seventh SMPTE Training Seminar for newly elected sections officers was held May 2, at the Holiday Inn in downtown Toronto. Since 1979, when then SMPTE President Robert M. Smith saw the need for the Society to strengthen the activities of its local sections, this full-day seminar has aimed to provide the new sections officers with instruction relative to the duties and responsibilities which they have assumed.

Since its inception, the seminar has increased in scope and importance. Originally, it was established as a training program for the sections chairmen. It remained a program exclusively for chairmen until just last year when, following a review and subsequent resolution by the SMPTE Board of Governors, the seminar was expanded to include the newly elected sections secretary/treasurers. This year, in accordance with a recommendation by the SMPTE Presidential Advisory Council, the seminar was further expanded to take in representatives of the Society's engineering technology committees and groups.

The day's agenda followed the same basic format as had previous training seminars. SMPTE Sections Vice-President Si Becker, Allied Film & Video, SMPTE President Harold J. Eady, Novo Communications, Inc., and other officials of the Society made a series of introductory addresses. Then the sections officers and engineering technology committee personnel split up, with each group going into a separate session to receive more sharply focused training and advice.

By day's end, all those who attended the seminar had benefited from the critical exchange of information, views, and ideas.

At breakfast, Si Becker welcomed an assembly of 18 sections chairmen and secretary/treasurers, 15 engineering technology committee representatives, 19 Society officers, and 2 members of the SMPTE Headquarters staff. In his address, Becker gave an overview of the full range of sections activities, pointing out the extreme importance of these activities to the Society membership and to the industry at large. He discussed the responsibilities of the sections chairmen, and those of the sections secretary/treasurers.

Becker emphasized the need for local sections to communicate closely with the White Plains Headquarters, and urged sections officers to submit meeting reports promptly. The meeting reports, which are published in each issue of the *SMPTE Journal*, serve as a network linking Society members throughout the world. By reading the reports, engineers remain on the leading edge of technological advancements, and stay generally informed as to section activities and accomplishments.

In closing, Becker said that the selection of program speakers and the arrangement of program topics should be approached with the aim of upholding the prestige of a particular section, as well as providing members with genuinely significant information.

Harold Eady then outlined the his-

tory and the goals of the Society. The text of his presentation follows this report.

SMPTE Engineering Vice-President Richard G. Streeter, CBS, Inc., discussed standardization, emphasizing the operation and function of the Standards Committee. The Standards Committee is composed of the chairmen of the various engineering committees. It reviews the work of these other committees and examines their recommendations in relation to the overall system. The Standards Committee also acts as an advisory committee in assisting the engineering vice-president on general Society engineering matters.

Streeter also noted that the Standards Committee works closely with the EBU, IEEE, and ANSI. Recently the SMPTE assumed, in ANSI's name, the operation of the Secretariat of ISO's Technical Committee on Cinematography (ISO/TC 36), a responsibility highly regarded among all nations.

As an extension of the Standards activity, the Society's engineering committees develop test materials. These tapes, films, and slides are used to correctly set up equipment, or to make certain that adherence to standards and recommended practices is being achieved.

SMPTE Executive Vice-President M. Carlos Kennedy, Ampex Corp., was the next speaker. Kennedy outlined the pyramidal structure of the Society, and described the operation of the Board of Governors and Executive Committee in relation to the organization as a whole. He talked about the importance of the sections, the activity within the student chapters, and the range of responsibility assumed by each SMPTE officer. Kennedy also discussed the Society's constitution and bylaws and administrative practices. He pointed out that the officers of the SMPTE should strive to adhere to the governing principles of the organization.

Past-President Leonard Coleman, Eastman Kodak Co., discussed the Society's honors and awards. According to Coleman, the various honors and awards encourage technical



SMPTE Executive Vice-President M. Carlos Kennedy speaks at the Sections Training Seminar.



Members of the various Society engineering technology committees receive instruction and advice at the seminar.

achievement among SMPTE members and in the industry at large. He explained the process by which special committees carefully select both the nominees and the winner for each award. The SMPTE also recognizes internal service, good authorship, or technical expertise, said Coleman, by electing its members to fellowship or bestowing other special awards.

SMPTE Editorial Vice-President Howard T. La Zare, Deluxe Laboratories, Inc., said that for the *SMPTE Journal* to remain in the forefront of scientific publications, the individual sections must generate top-quality technical papers. La Zare explained the function of the Board of Editors, noting that it is composed of people whose technical knowledge and tenure in the field make them qualified to evaluate papers submitted for publication in the *Journal*. The *Journal*, together with the technical books published periodically by the Society, is a primary vehicle by which the SMPTE disseminates timely and important technical information.

Another way in which the SMPTE disseminates technical information is through its annual conferences, according to the next speaker, SMPTE Conference Vice-President Maurice L. French, Canadian Broadcasting Corp. French said that both the fall technical conference and the winter television conference have increased in popularity and appeal in recent years, adding that this year's 128th SMPTE Technical Conference and Equipment Exhibit, could be the largest ever. He discussed the organizational work involved in putting together a conference. French noted that a successful conference requires the consistent and diligent efforts on

the part of each member of a selected Arrangements Committee.

SMPTE Financial Vice-President Blaine Baker, Motion Picture Laboratories, then discussed his responsibility as budget director and keeper of the Society's funds. He explained the requirements of sections officers as to the submission of budget proposals and financial statements and records. The financial information received from the sections by the financial vice-president, said Baker, is presented to the Society's Board of Governors at the fall meeting.

Following lunch, Executive Director Lynette Robinson advised sections officers to continually promote the many benefits associated with membership in the Society. Robinson then went on to explain procedures at SMPTE Headquarters. She named the various departments, emphasizing strongly that each one is staffed by dedicated individuals who stand ready and willing to serve the membership. The new Headquarters

building in White Plains, N.Y., which contains considerably more office space than the previous building in Scarsdale, allows the staff to provide even quicker, more efficient services to all Society members.

A social reception at Toronto City Hall concluded the day's activities.

The newly elected and re-elected sections officers attending the seminar were:

David Cmeyla, *U.S. Information Agency*, Washington, D.C., Section

Paul Deer, *Western Cine*, Rocky Mountain Section

Charles DiSabatino, *Boston Video Associates*, New England Section

Charles Floyd, *Allied Film & Video*, Dallas/Fort Worth Section

Buddy Gailey, *Nissan Motor Manufacturing Co.*, Nashville Section

Rose M. Gabriele, *Eastman Kodak Co.*, Rochester Section

David George, *Imagineering Ltd.*, Toronto Section

Andris Kesteris, *National Film, Television & Sound Archives*, Ottawa Section

Fred Lemmin, *PFA Laboratories*, Toronto Section

Bebe F. McClain, *PAG America, Ltd.*, Atlanta Section

T. Russell McMurtray, *Eastman Kodak Co.*, Hollywood Section

Charles R. Morris, *Kiro Inc.*, Pacific/Northwest Section

Robert H. Plummer, *RHP & Associates*, Pacific/Northwest Section

Joseph J. Pusateri, *Douglas Film Industries*, Chicago Section

Alan Rosenfeld, *Tape-Film Industries, Inc.*, New York Section

Rene L. Villeneuve, *Sonolab, Inc.*, Montreal/Quebec Section



SMPTE Sections Vice-President Si Becker (right) and SMPTE Secretary Stephen Kerman enjoy a break at the seminar.