

1988 Sections and Engineering Training Seminar

By Lynette Robinson and Si Becker

For the eighth time since 1979, the Society hosted a training seminar for newly elected section officers. Also invited for the third consecutive year were the chairmen of the engineering due-process committees. The training seminar began as a combined sections and engineering meeting, with speakers describing matters of interest to both groups.

The 1988 opening ceremonies included a welcome by Sections Vice-President Irwin Young, followed by a speech by President M. Carlos Kennedy on the goals of the Society. Engineering Vice-President Stan Baron gave a general overview of engineering activities, followed by a talk by Past-President Harold Eady, who spoke on his responsibilities and on the Society's Honors and Awards program. This year, for the first time, Charles Lipow, Chairman of the Public Relations Advisory Committee, was invited to give a talk on press sensitivity.

At this point in the program, the engineering chairmen adjourned to concentrate on matters of concern to them, and Sections Vice-President Irwin Young continued the section officers meeting with matters relating to their areas of interest. Executive Vice-President Maurice L. French related the manner in which the Society is organized and explained his role in managing its affairs. This was followed by a talk by Editorial Vice-



Sections Vice-President Irwin Young welcoming attendees at the seminar.



Executive Vice-President Maurice L. French describing the organization of the Society.

President Howard T. La Zare, who explained the process undergone by technical papers prior to their appearance in the *SMPTE Journal*.

Blaine Baker, Conference Vice-President, described his role, and how he interfaces with the local arrangements people and Headquarters staff in planning and implementing the Society's technical conferences. The finances of the Society, including where the funds come from and how they are utilized, were discussed. One of the interesting facts regarding finances was that members, whose dues are \$50 a year, receive considerably more than this in direct benefits, which include receiving the *SMPTE Journal* monthly.

Next on the program was L. John Spring, National Membership Chairman, who proudly announced that the number of SMPTE members has now passed the 9400 mark. Much of this success, according to Spring, has been due to a retention program in which the Section Membership Chairman does a follow-up on suspended members in his or her particular section. In fact, Jack's talk was so rousing that one of the section chairmen immediately signed up for membership the head of the audiovisual company servicing the hotel. In a moving ceremony, Spring presented Charles Lipow with a paperweight in recognition of the members he personally has brought into the Society.

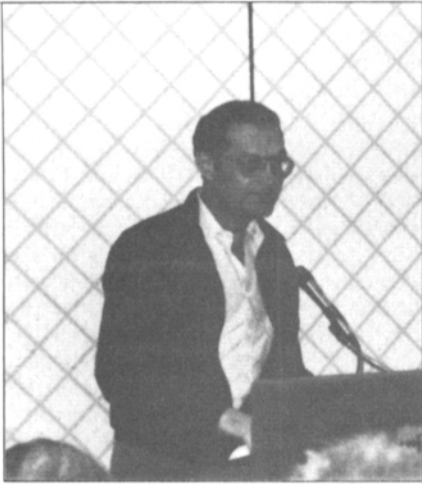
All of the officers who spoke during the morning session stressed the theme of the support an association such as the SMPTE gives to its members, and that this support is a two-way street, to which the section officers must also contribute.

Lunch was followed by a slide program, presented by Executive Director Lynette Robinson, describing the Headquarters staff and their functions and relating how the staff interfaces and offers support to the section officers throughout the year.

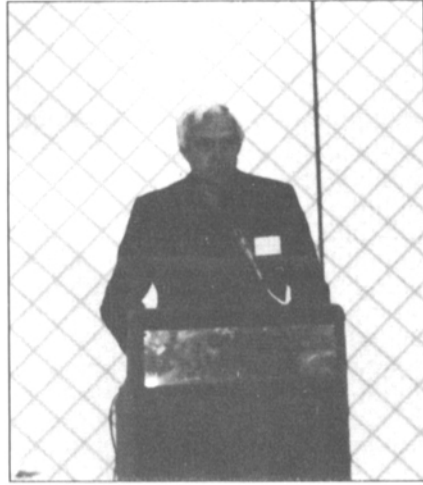
The remainder of the day was spent in general discussion, led by Irwin Young, on the responsibilities of section officers, including program planning, report deadlines, and delegating responsibilities to other section members so that more people become involved.



SMPTE President M. Carlos Kennedy (L) with Henri Olbrechts.



Editorial Vice-President Howard La Zare describing the procedures by which papers are published in the Journal.



Conference Vice-President Blaine Baker discussing the Society's annual conferences and exhibits.



Engineering Vice-President Stanley Baron giving an overview of the Society's engineering activities.

In the engineering portion of the seminar, ten chairmen of due-process engineering committees met in sessions led by SMPTE Engineering Vice-President Stanley N. Baron, National Broadcasting Co.; SMPTE Engineering Director, Motion Pictures, John Baptista, Consolidated Film Industries; SMPTE Engineering Director, Television, Kenneth Davies, Canadian Broadcasting Corp.; and Headquarters Director of Engineering Si Becker. The agenda included engineering committee membership requirements, documentation, reports, and the many procedures required in producing the Society's Standards, Recommended Practices, and Engineering Guidelines.

The creation of these documents carries a great responsibility to the industries the Society serves, and the training seminar stressed the care and effort that must be extended in achieving not only technical competence, but also consensus among often strongly divergent viewpoints. The work of the engineering committees, a complex and thorough set of procedures that ensures fair and equitable decisions, must be carried out under the rules of the Society and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

Beyond a presentation of the procedures to be followed, the engineering chairmen's session considered the very real problems concerned with achieving the goals and assignments of the engineering committees. Participation on the part of industry representatives who make up the engineering committees has become a

very valuable commodity, and the techniques for dealing with committee work efficiently and for moving work along promptly to keep pace with rapidly changing technology were discussed at great length. As one participant put it, "This session gives us a tool kit to get the work done." The contributions to the discussion by the chairmen were certainly as valuable as those of the presenters.

In addition to the presenters, attendees included the following committee chairmen: Ioan Allen, Dolby Laboratories; Peter Dare, Sony Communications Products; David Fibush, Ampex Corp.; Robert Herman, 3M Co.; Joseph Kane, Reference Recordings; Rami Mina, Eastman Kodak Co.; Henri Olbrechts, Agfa-Gavaert; Robert Plummer, RHP & Assoc.; Fred Remley, University of Michigan; and S. Merrill Weiss, National Broadcasting Co.

The annual training seminar for section and engineering officers was preceded by a reception on Thursday evening to which the attendees, national officers, and local section officers were invited. This highly successful forum has proven to be an effective tool in assisting both the section officers and the engineering chairmen in carrying out their responsibilities in the forthcoming year. It has given them the knowledge of a support team, and has shown them that the officers regard their volunteer efforts as extremely important and appreciated.

As an indication of the importance this seminar has taken on, 17 of the 21 sections were represented, including



Charles J. Lipow (L) receiving gift from Jack Spring in special presentation ceremony.

the section chairman from Australia. Last year, 14 of the 21 sections were represented.

Following is a letter received from David Priester of the Atlanta Section: "Dear Lynne: Congratulations to you and the other officers and staff on last Friday's training seminar. I have been an officer of other organizations in the past, and have had to start my term in a much greater state of confusion from the lack of a similar session. Those of us whose employers who, for whatever reason, do not support the service of their employees to such organizations as SMPTE, appreciate the policy allowing for providing certain expenses for the seminar to be carried by SMPTE. As a result of last week (May 12-13, 1988), I feel much more confident and excited about the coming year. From all of us, Thank You. David Priester."