



Blaine Baker



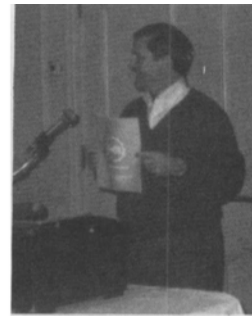
Irwin W. Young



Frank J. Haney



M. Carlos Kennedy



L. John Spring, Jr.

## 1989 Sections and Engineering Training Seminar

By Lynette Robinson and Si Becker

The 1989 Sections and Engineering Training Seminar was held in Ottawa, Canada, on May 11 and 12, just before the Ottawa, Toronto, Rochester, Montreal/Quebec Mini-Conference. Conference attendees, national officers, local section officers, engineering chairmen, and representatives from the headquarters staff were welcomed to a reception on Thursday evening by SMPTE Sections Vice-President Irwin W. Young, Du Art Film Labs, Inc.

In 1978 the SMPTE Executive Committee recommended to the Board of Governors that the Society hold a training seminar for newly elected section chairmen in a central location. The first training seminar was so well received by the attending section officers and by those who taught it that it has been an approved event nine times in the last ten years. All section officers, whether newly elected or not, have been encouraged to attend.

In 1985, the Executive Committee made a further recommendation that a similar training program for the chairmen of the Engineering Technology Committees be held at the same place as the Section Training Seminar. The rest is history.

Since these seminars have been held, monthly attendance at almost all section meetings has increased because of enhanced programming and more timely mailing of the section program. The Board of Governors and, more specifically, the members of the Society who benefit from the monthly technical programs and the opportunity to meet with their colleagues appreciate the time and effort

put into this very important part of the Society by the section officers.

SMPTE President Maurice L. French, Canadian Broadcasting Corp., spoke to the joint session on the Society's mission in today's rapidly advancing technology and its need to maintain and carry out the goals its founders envisioned. French stressed the importance of the sections to the Society's continuation as the leading organization for motion-picture and television engineering activities. "From the group sitting in this room will come the future officers of the Society," he said. "Almost all of the national officers who will talk to you today have been active in or have been officers of a local section," said French.

Engineering Vice-President Stanley N. Baron, NBC, addressed the engineering and section chairmen on the organization and role of the engineering technology committees in the creation of standards.

### Training Sessions

Midway through the morning, the engineering chairmen and the sections officers split off into their separate training sessions. Executive Vice-President Blaine Baker, MPL Film & Video, Inc., answered such questions as, Who governs the Society? Which officer is responsible for the Society's finances? What is the chain by which committees report to the officers who make up the Executive Committee? What is the role of the Executive Committee in relation to the Board of Governors? How are regional governors elected? Who is involved in the planning and implementation of the

Society's conferences? Baker described the organization of the Society and how the various committees and the Board of Governors operate.

### Administrative Practices

Past-President M. Carlos Kennedy, Ampex Corp., described the procedures outlined in the Bylaws and Administrative Practices for selecting the Honors and Awards candidates recognized each year by the Society. He also explained the responsibility of the sections officers to recommend candidates who will run in the national election of regional governors.

### Journal Requirements

Editorial Vice-President Frank J. Haney, Capital Cities/ABC, Inc., explained the procedure that determines a technical paper's acceptance for publication in the *Journal*, the lead time required for printing section meeting notices in the *Journal*, and what information a section meeting report should contain.

### Finances

Financial Vice-President Richard K. Schafer, Eastman Kodak Co., spoke about where the funds to run the Society originate and how they are used. He illustrated the financial structure of the Society with bar graphs and pie charts. Schafer explained that because the Society is in sound financial condition, additional educational programs are being considered by the Executive Committee and the Long-Range Planning Committee.

## Membership

Secretary/Treasurer and National Membership Chairman L. John Spring, Jr., announced that membership continues to grow. This is largely a result of the program in which people who have not renewed their membership are contacted by their local membership chairmen. Keeping membership information available during section meetings and at conferences of similar associations has been a successful way to introduce the benefits of membership in the SMPTE.

## Headquarters Staff

Executive Director Lynette Robinson presented a slide program about the headquarters staff, describing their functions and how the staff supports the section officers throughout the year.

## General Discussion

The rest of the day was spent discussing the concerns of section officers, such as program planning, report deadlines, legal guidelines for operating a section, and how a meeting notice should be prepared.

The following section officers were in attendance, representing 16 of the Society's 22 sections: Derek Wilson, representing Australia; Robert Olsen, Chicago; Danny Grizzle, Dallas/Fort Worth; Leonard Eden, Detroit; Clyde Smith, Florida/Caribbean; Michael Chewey, Milton Shefter, Hollywood; Marty Kirkland, Houston; Brian Lay, New England; Jay Ballard, New York; Kent Cawthorne, William R. Richardson, Ohio; John Howard, Bill Graham, Ottawa; Karl Paulsen, Pacific/Northwest; Glenn Kennel, Rochester; Jim O'Brien, Rocky Mountain; Fred Lemmin, Walter Bebenek, Toronto; and John Nash, Washington, D.C.

Irwin Young closed the sections training part of the seminar by expressing his appreciation to the section officers for assuming this tremendous and important responsibility.

## Engineering Training Session

In the engineering part of the training seminar, the chairmen of the due-process engineering committees met to discuss engineering committee membership requirements, documentation, reports, and the many procedures required to produce the Society's Standards, Recommended



*Blaine Baker, standing, and several of the section leaders.*

Practices, and Engineering Guidelines. In attendance were SMPTE Engineering Vice-President Stanley N. Baron, National Broadcasting Co., Inc., who presided over the training seminar; John Baptista, Consolidated Film Industries; Tom Cavanagh, Parc Carrousel; Keith Field, Canadian Broadcasting Corp.; Francois Michaud, Canadian Broadcasting Corp.; Rami Mina, Eastman Kodak Co.; Henri Olbrechts, Agfa-Gevaert; Peter Symes, Grass Valley Group, Inc.; S. Merrill Weiss, National Broadcasting Co., Inc.; SMPTE Director of Engineering Si Becker; and SMPTE Staff Engineer Mark S. Hyman.

## Standards, Recommended Practices, and Guidelines

The creation of Standards, Recommended Practices, and Guidelines is very important to the industries the Society serves, and the training seminar stressed the care and effort that must be extended to achieve not only technical competence, but also consensus in often strongly divergent viewpoints. The process of creating these documents must be completed in accordance with a complex and thorough set of procedures under the rules of the Society and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

## Engineering Committee Work

In the engineering training seminar, the due-process committee chair-

men discussed the very real problems of accomplishing the goals and assignments of their committees. Participation by industry representatives on the engineering committees has become a valuable asset. Methods to help the committees keep pace with rapidly changing technology were discussed at length.

## Summary

This forum has proved to be an effective tool for assisting section officers and engineering chairmen in carrying out their responsibilities. It has given them the knowledge of a support team and has shown them that the officers value and appreciate their volunteer efforts.

A letter written to Sections Vice-President Irwin W. Young by Danny Grizzle of the Dallas/Fort Worth Section follows:

"Dear Mr. Young: I wanted to thank you for the excellent training program offered to new SMPTE section officers. I was thrilled to meet the national officers of the SMPTE, the section officers who attended, and the SMPTE professional staff.

"I'm sure that this type of face-to-face training session is the most effective way to get new section chairmen and secretary/treasurers up to speed. In my case, it helped me channel a great deal of raw enthusiasm into productive motivation. I hope we surprise you in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Section this year. Thanks again for your efforts. I'm very excited about the coming year. Sincerely, Danny Grizzle."