



MESSAGE FROM THE PAST-PRESIDENT

John L. Mason

Recently, a number of people have asked me what life is like as Past-President of the Society. Surely, there is a feeling of lightness, as if I have suddenly shed a few pounds—this is, of course, the mantle of leadership and responsibility that has now been passed to others. Life, too, for the Past-President happens now, more out of the glare of center stage. As the pictorial coverage of the 37th Advanced Motion Imaging Conference in Seattle graphically shows in the May/June issue of the *Journal*, there is nary a photo of the Past-President in all the smiling and happy faces.

Succession Planning

The major duty of the Past-President is to guide the succession of officers and governors in the annual process of Society elections. This is a critical function, because it relates directly to Society growth and renewal. All organizations and memberships must grow to survive, and it is imperative for SMPTE to attract, retain, and develop men and women of stature, promise, and vision to assume key governing roles within the Society. By the time you see this message in print, a new slate of officers and governors will have been presented to the Board of Governors, and I think everyone will be pleased at the caliber and credentials of the nominees.

The Past-President also guides the nomination of new Life Fellows and Fellows, and I must say that the Fellows Nomination Committee has gone far beyond the call of duty this year and presented a list of the largest and most impressive Fellow applications that I have seen in recent memory. The rank of Fellow is a class of Society membership that recognizes the attainment of a firm and significant position of leadership, technical or business expertise, and accomplishment within the motion imaging field, so it is gratifying to see so many deserving candidates recommended for this very distinguished form of industry peer recognition.

The SMPTE Foundation

There are some continuing developments with the SMPTE Foundation since we last met. A very attractive brochure has been published, which gives an overview of the Foundation; how it is related to its parent organization, SMPTE; the role and mission of the Foundation; its directors; and how to contribute to the Foundation. This brochure is available to anyone who wants or needs to know more about the Foundation, and of course is intended to be a communications piece that can be used for fundraising. Call, e-mail, or write to the Foundation at the 595 West Hartsdale address. Please note that the Foundation has a direct phone line: (914) 761-1926.

So, the bottom line to all this is that SMPTE is sort of like our Armed Forces: we're always looking for a few good men and women. If you want to get involved, let us know. If you are already involved and would like to contribute more, we want to hear from you. If you have some good ideas for the Foundation, on funding opportunities, people to approach, or for projects, we definitely want to hear from you.

SMPTE and the Foundation are all about service, a contribution, and giving back, to leave the motion imaging field a better place, and to benefit the next generation of professionals. We can all make a difference if we try.