

Message from the President

Edward P. Hobson



This marks my final message to you as President of our Society. I am proud of the work we have accomplished over the past two years. We employed our new Executive Director, Ms. Kimberly Maki. Kimberly brings a wealth of experience and energy and will help lead the Society into our exciting future. As part of SMPTE's new vision, Kimberly will be implementing an outreach program to ascertain feedback from our membership. She already has had the pleasure of meeting many of SMPTE's members—both individual and sustaining—at the fall conference. Kimberly plans to further this outreach to a greater number of members as well as Sections. Please look forward to this as an engaging experience to help us better serve and grow the Society.

SMPTE has released its first Compression Standard, VC-1, submitted for standardization by Microsoft. Work is under way on VC-2, submitted by the BBC Research Laboratories. Other compression standards are under consideration as well, including one submitted by Avid. We have released multiple Digital Cinema Standards and a large number are in the final stages of development for release shortly. Wendy Aylsworth, Chair of DC-28, the Digital Cinema Standards Committee, reported on the International Representation on the DC-28 Committee in her speech to the Fellows during our most recent Technical Conference in Hollywood. Members from more than 40 countries participate in this worldwide effort to standardize the important aspects of Digital Cinema, from the file system, to security, to display, to the distribution package. The Digital Cinema Standards will ensure the ability for a compliant motion picture to play on D-Cinema systems throughout the world, just as current 35mm release prints will play on any standard projector. This work affirms SMPTE's capabilities, expertise, and standing as an international standards making body. In the Television Systems Technology Committee (S-22), work continues on control standards and, in particular, on communications standards to improve interfaces between the various business systems in a media facility. We owe our engineering committees well-deserved congratulations for their hard work!

SMPTE also moved to our new headquarters in White Plains. Our new offices provide modern, efficient spaces for the staff, at reduced expense to the Society.

We are about to debut our new web hosting and membership support service, provided by KAVI, a specialist in this area. KAVI will improve our communications with you, our members, as well as assist the engineering committees in their work and provide better outreach to the public in general. You will be hearing more about this initiative in the coming months from Peter Symes, SMPTE Financial Vice-President and Gavin Schutz, Engineering Vice-President.

Finally, the Past President becomes the chair of the Nominating Committee. SMPTE, like other volunteer organizations, lives and dies by the work of its members and officers. We need volunteers with the support of their employers to serve on our various committees and as officers and managers of the Society. If you would like to serve as an officer, governor, section manager, or section chair, please let your local Governor or current Section Managers know of your interest, or write to me at the e-mail address listed on the SMPTE website.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members and officers of SMPTE for your support during my term as President. It has been a gratifying and rewarding experience.