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Happy 100th Birthday, SMPTE!

This issue of the *SMPTE Journal* is a special one, celebrating 100 years of SMPTE and its vital role in this ever-growing industry.

As you read this special retrospective, looking back 100 years and surmising what is ahead, I hope that you will sit and enjoy a piece of cake and raise a toast to SMPTE. Reaching a centennial anniversary is a remarkable milestone that should be celebrated in style.

On 24 July 1916, a group of engineering visionaries, including C. Francis Jenkins, Donald J. Bell, Paul H. Cromelin, C. A. Willatt, Francis B. Cannock, W. Burton Westcott, Paul Brockett, E. Kendall Gillett, Herbert Miles, and J. P. Lyons, gathered before the Notary Public, Ralph S. Sherline, to affirm the formation of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers (SMPE).

Later that day, the Society held its first meeting, in Washington, District of Columbia, where Henry D. Hubbard, the Secretary of the U.S. National Bureau of Standards, spoke before this group about the value and importance of standards, especially for a nascent industry. Hubbard's paper is extraordinary and, like so much of the past, still rings true today. He spoke of standardization becoming part of our daily lives without us even realizing. Our most basic human necessities—food, shelter, clothing—are all impacted by standards, which we often take for granted. Standards have helped to ensure consumers are able to enjoy a stated expectation. We know that, when we buy a product, it will work because it was built upon a set of industry standards. As Hubbard stated, "Each profession aims to standardize its training, its terminology, its equipment, its data, both numerical and descriptive, its code of ethics, and to fix standards of quality and performance, showing that standardization has a breadth commensurate with human activity."

One hundred years later, the constant evolution of technology has made standards even more important than ever. Today, SMPTE is active in important developments such as high dynamic range, ultra high definition, video over IP, Interoperable Master Formats, and so much more. In the early days, much of SMPE's work was on the physical aspects of the business, from film to projection systems. Now, of course, our work is driven mostly by software-related interfaces. With the greater influence of IP-related activities—from production to distribution—SMPTE continues to play a vital role in bringing order to chaos, which we have been doing for 100 years!

It is time to celebrate the Society. During this milestone year, the staff and I have had the pleasure of attending many special Section meetings where the Society is being feted. At each occasion, I am inspired by the generous spirit of the SMPTE members who keep Jenkins' vision alive, enabling a Society that not only sets standards but brings together like-minded individuals to share knowledge and experiences. Whether in Hong Kong, New York, Los Angeles, or

Pittsburgh, our local Section leaders are carrying the torch for today's and tomorrow's members. The Society's membership has ebbed and flowed over the years, but I am delighted to say that we are seeing a tremendous increase in membership—including our younger generations. In 2015, we saw an 8% membership growth, and 2016 is proving to be just as active. As C. Francis Jenkins said during that inaugural meeting in July 1916, our leaders are vital for a strong future, "I know from the spirit shown at that meeting, that this Society was formed with an honest intent to be of service to the industry at large; and that the

**"[Motion Picture] is making of the world one great family, and soon we will come to feel that we are a friend of the man over yonder, because we know him so well from seeing him in the picture so often."
—C. Francis Jenkins**

SMPTE Sections and partner organizations have been celebrating SMPTE with cake!



officers and members alike intend to give largely of their time and energy for the promotion of the general good and without thought of financial

reward; and as the engineer stands behind it all, we should feel due responsibility, while taking justifiable pride in our vocation.”

Happy Birthday to an amazing organization! One built on the good will of so many volunteers and members who believe in the work we do. 