



John Ferder

**T**he Secretary/Treasurer has a number of duties that are described in the Governance and Finance/Administration Operations Manuals, involving the Society's finances and record-keeping. As a member of the Financial Advisory Committee, chaired by the Finance Vice President, the Secretary/Treasurer works with the President, Executive Vice President, and Executive Director to recommend to the Board of Governors plans and policies regarding the long-term financial needs of the Society. Part of that duty includes the monitoring and maintenance of the Society's Reserve Fund, which is targeted to be at least one year's operating expenses and held to be used in the case of a sudden increase in expenses or one-time unbudgeted expenses. It is meant to be replenished quickly, is not used without the approval of the Board of Governors, and is funded by high-quality insured investments such as money market accounts and the U.S. Treasury Bills. During my service as Secretary/Treasurer and previously on the Board of Governors, this directive has been closely followed and the Fund has been well maintained.

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The Secretary/Treasurer is also the Chair of the Revisions Committee, whose job is to prepare and recommend the specific wording for revisions to the Bylaws and Operations Manuals of the Society, under the direction and approval of the Board of Governors. As our Society continues to grow and forge new partnerships, such as becoming the Sole Statutory Member of the Hollywood Professional Association, revisions are a necessary and ongoing process. After such revisions are drafted and approved by the full Board, it is the Secretary/Treasurer's duty to work with the Home Office to publish these revisions in print form and on the Society's website for access to the entire membership. The committee has met twice this year and prepared revisions, which the Board has approved and have been published. The work will continue, and I am grateful to the eight members of the committee, both veteran and new, and to Sally-Ann D'Amato of SMPTE staff, who have worked with me on this process.

I joined SMPTE in May 1986, and the membership has been invaluable to me. It has provided me with education, mentorship, and support, and I hope to provide the same to my fellow members, especially the new Professional and Student

members joining the Society. It's been my honor to serve on the Board of Governors from 2009 to 2012 and again from 2014 to 2017, and to be asked to fill Peter Wharton's term as Secretary/Treasurer after his election as our Membership Vice President. The experiences I've gained there and, in the Standards Community, have been invaluable to me as an engineer.

I feel that it's important that each of us attend local Section meetings, encourage new members to join, and become active either in local Section boards, the international Society, or the Standards Community. We should also encourage companies with whom we work to become Sustaining Members of SMPTE and also participate in Section meetings and Society-wide events such as the Annual Technical Conference. The more each of us contributes to the Society, the more valuable and fulfilling our membership becomes. Being active not only helps each of us in our professional development, but also contributes to the growth of SMPTE.

Finally, I'd like to thank the Executive Committee and the Board of Governors, as well as the membership, for their support. It has been my great pleasure to work with all of you as we move SMPTE forward.

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