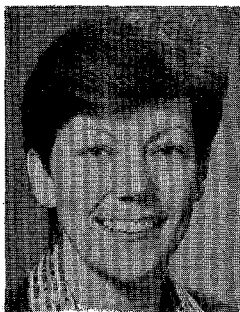


Editor's Message

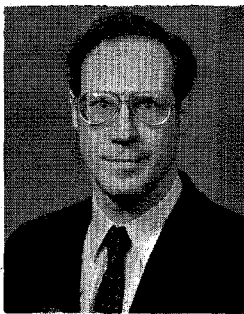


IN the last issue I announced a new Editorial Board for the *ASSP Magazine*. The new members of this board are Claude Gueguen and Shuzo Saito. Another change is announced with this issue as John Woods retires from the PhD Thesis Abstract Department, and Dr. Neil Jablon, from AT&T in Middletown, NJ, takes over responsibility for this area. This change gives me an opportunity to thank John for his service to the ASSP Society. John was part of the original team that began the ASSP Magazine three and one-half years ago, and during that

time has continued to review PhD Abstracts and prepare them for publication in the Magazine. Another person that was part of that original team was Jim Cadzow. Jim continues to select paper abstracts from a variety of journals that pertain to areas of general interest to the ASSP members. These selected paper abstracts help us stay aware of current research without skimming many journals each month. As Editor of the Magazine, I would like to again thank John and Jim for donating their time to help provide accurate, current information for our members.

Delores M. Etter
Editor-in-Chief

President's Message



MY dilatory behavior in writing the last message is now catching up with me. Not only did the delay allow me to include in the previous letter all the major society news surrounding ICASSP, but it also left a shorter period of time for significant things to happen before the deadline for this letter. Consequently, I have almost nothing to say. Actually, the previously discussed spring technical and administrative meetings, and our publications, are the visible culmination of significant work that continues all year long. It is sort of like a hidden Markov model, except that the relation between the underlying work and what can be observed and used is very direct and has minimal randomness. The inside front cover of this magazine lists the Society's officers, boards and committees. All of them are functioning and a review of the list will make observable what previously may have been hidden.

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Our Vice President Delores Etter has made up for the lack of specific vice-presidential duties by serving as Editor of this magazine. She also performed the duty of appearing on my and the Society's behalf at the recent TAB meeting. (More about that appears below.)

The Society's 1988 budget has been generated by the Institute's computers; checked, corrected and submitted by our Secretary-Treasurer Jae Lim; and approved by the Institute. With a rise in our Society dues to \$10.00 and an increase in the library rate for our Transactions, we will maintain our financial health. The rise in rates one year

after going monthly with the Transactions reflects the Adcom's attitude that we should use our reserve to initiate improvements and new member services in a timely manner without requiring that each step be immediately or, sometimes, ultimately self-supporting.

The evidence of the continued functioning of the Publications Board is the regular appearance of this magazine and of the Transactions. I hesitate to think what the true cost and subscription price of these publications would be without the volunteer efforts of the Board and the referees who put many hours of work into each submission, whether it gets published or not. That is why I, and other Society presidents, get upset when the Institute's publications department generates its success from our labors and then fails to collect the various page charges which our members are generating for the Society and which we need to help defray what the Institute charges us for publishing the Transactions.

In the area of conferences, the ICASSP-88 committee has been in full operation for quite a while now and there will be tremendous activity as the September 1st deadline for abstracts of proposed papers approaches. The Society's seven technical committees will also be working hard on the review of the abstracts. Oversight of this activity, review and approval of workshops and the nurturing of future ICASSPs keeps the Conference Board always busy.

The work of the Awards Board continues all year. Besides soliciting and preparing nominations for Society awards, the Board considers and works on the nomination of Society members for Institute awards and prizes.

Chapter activities also continue throughout the year. Charlie Rader upholds our end of the Chapter-Society communication—communication that we feel is necessary for a group to be a true ASSPS Chapter. He also arranges for our contribution to the support of activities in the ASSP area and for our Distinguished Speaker program.