At the end of 1970 and my first year as Chairman of the IEEE Computer Group, it seems good to look back briefly at the accomplishments of the year and then to look ahead at the plans for next year. The past year has been in many respects a year of consolidation as well as the Year of the Opening.

Phase I of our reorganization is now complete and we start 1971 as the IEEE COMPUTER SOCIETY. In anticipation of this we have already launched an expanded membership campaign at the Fall Joint Computer Conference in Houston. Also at Houston I had a number of discussions with representatives of other societies to explore ways in which we could join in activities to benefit our members. Both the membership campaign and the intersociety discussions are bare beginnings which will need to be continued throughout 1971.

Our Conference and Meetings Committee under the chairmanship of Steve Yau has been very active during the past year. We had our most successful Annual Conference thus far in Washington last June. Sincere thanks are due to Bob Evans and Don Doll for their vigorous and successful leadership in running this conference. Plans are well underway for our next Annual Conference to be held in Boston next September under the chairmanship of Paul Bothwell. The 1972 Annual Conference is planned for San Francisco in September 1972 with Tracy Storer as Chairman. In order to assist the technical committees in planning their workshops and symposia, a set of guidelines has been developed by the Conference and Meetings Committee.

To strengthen the management of the Society and assist its volunteer officers, Mr. Harry Hayman was appointed Executive Secretary at the November 1970 meeting of the Administrative Committee. Mr. Hayman will start to handle the Executive Secretary responsibilities on a volunteer basis during the first part of 1971. He will shift to a full time basis in August 1971 upon his retirement from NASA. His office will be in the Washington, D.C. area. One of Mr. Hayman's major responsibilities will be to assist committees in preparing conference budgets and proposals. He will also maintain the Society records, provide liaison with IEEE Headquarters, assist committees with meeting arrangements, and many other wonderful things. Those of us who have worked with Harry during the past year are very enthusiastic about having him available to help the Society on a full time basis.

Along with the designation of Harry Hayman as Executive Secretary, the role of John Kirkley has been redefined as that of Society Publisher. Mr. Kirkley will expand his publication-related activities and reduce his administrative jobs. We hope that by transferring the responsibility for post-conference sales of Conference records and digests to the Society Publisher's office, we will be both able to help our members by making these documents more easily available and to increase the base of the Society's finances by expanding sales to libraries and institutions. Also an increase in advertising in COMPUTER is expected.
major aspect of Phase II of the reorganization is a planned strengthening of the local chapters. We hope to be able to provide more direct assistance to the chapters by expanding the functions of the Area Committees. Also enough new Area Committees should be created so that every chapter will be supported by an Area Committee. One specific activity being discussed is the modification of the Distinguished Visitor Program so that its function of providing speakers for chapter meetings will be handled on an Area basis through the Area Committees rather than on a nation-wide basis. We hope that this will simplify the administrative complexities and provide for better cooperation between Area Committees and chapters.

Our two newest technical committees — Fault Tolerant Computing under the chairmanship of Al Avizienis and Computer Architecture with chairman, Mike Flynn — both had very successful meetings during the FJCC just past. The activities of the Fault Tolerant Committee are presented elsewhere in this issue and the Computer Elements Committee has a number of meetings and workshops in preparation. At the November meeting of the Administrative Committee the Packaging subcommittee of the Computer Elements Committee was raised to full Technical Committee status. We look forward to a continuation of this trend in 1971 with the establishment of more technical committees and an increase in member participation in technical committee activities.

Finally, I would like to mention that I have requested from Paul Bothwell that I be allowed to organize an evening session at the 1971 Computer Society Conference which would be devoted to an open discussion of the Society's activities. I hope that many of you will join me there to discuss together other things that the Society should be doing.

Ed McCluskey