From the Publications Committee chairman

One of the primary goals of the IEEE Computer Society is the dissemination of information. To this end, over two-thirds of the Computer Society budget is allocated for publications. In 1977, we published in the neighborhood of 20,000 pages—by far the largest output among all IEEE societies and groups.

Quality is important to us as well: All technical materials, be it regular contributions, conference papers, or tutorials, have to go through appropriate review procedures before their publication. It is, therefore, not surprising that IEEE Transactions on Computers has been evaluated repeatedly to be the most cited computer journal, and IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering is not only our fastest growing journal, but also the only prestigious software engineering journal in the profession.

Earlier this year, in order to make appropriate innovations to better serve our membership, the Publications Committee established a number of subcommittees or working groups. One is on surveys and evaluations, chaired by Dr. Portia Isaacson. The objective of this subcommittee is to survey the general membership opinions on society publications, to evaluate the contents of current publications, and to make recommendations on possible improvements for the future.

Another subcommittee, chaired by Prof. C. V. Ramamoorthy, is to study whether there exists a need for a new journal to fill a possible "gap" among present publications. Our preliminary study shows such a need in the area of computer design and applications. Additional in-depth study is being made, and your inputs and ideas are cordially invited.

The Subcommittee on Instructions and Forms, chaired by Prof. John Meyer, is established to update and continuously monitor publications guidelines and referee instructions in accordance with the membership opinions, current trends, and practices.

Recently, consideration has been given to the selection of outstanding papers for possible awards and/or republication. A subcommittee chaired by David Stomberg has been studying the pros and cons on this subject, and has recommended the implementation of an outstanding paper selection in 1979.

One major Computer Society activity relating to publications is the establishment of the Computer Advisory Board earlier this year, continuing and enlarging the efforts started a year ago. A primary goal of the board is to enhance the content as well as the appearance of the society's most widely distributed magazine, Computer. Under the direction of President Merlin Smith, the board has been extremely active.

From the Education Committee chairman

Rarely does the opportunity occur for the Education Committee chairman to address the society membership and present the goals, accomplishments, frustrations, and problems associated with the formulation and implementation of the society's educational policies. I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you about these things, and to let you know that the Education Committee is working hard to serve the best interests of the membership in the educational domain.

The Education Committee consists of 150 academic and industrial members, of whom approximately 50 are active. The committee meets at least four times each year in open session (i.e., during the society's four major conferences: COMPON Fall, COMPON Spring, NCC, COMP-SAC). In addition, the three major subcommittees meet in weekend working sessions as needed (usually three times per year). These subcommittees are the Curricula Development—Undergraduate, the Curricula Development—Graduate, and the Curricula Development—Professional Development Subcommittees.

The scope of the Education Committee's activities includes development of computer science and engineering curricula guidelines for colleges and universities, aiding in the

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Readers may have noticed that the appearance and layout of Computer have significantly improved over the past several months. It has also become more colorful. A series of tutorial/survey papers on various areas of interest is being planned. Efforts for other improvements for Computer are continuing.

There are also a number of activities in other society publications. The most significant one is the scheduled publication of a new quarterly, IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence. Under the editorship of Professor K. S. Fu, this new journal will appear early in 1979. A special series of survey papers is being planned for IEEE Transactions on Computers with Prof. Robert Short serving as special editor for the series.

Other changes have been made in the society’s publications policy and requirements as reflected in the revised “Information for Authors” pages for IEEE Transactions on Computers and IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering. Specifically, state-of-the-art surveys and conference papers are now acceptable for consideration. This new policy is intended to improve the practical usefulness of these two journals.

Another new practice is that authors are required to submit a signed copyright transfer form before publication. This is a fall-out of the new Copyright Law, which stipulates among other things that authors must specifically release their copyright to publishers before publishers can legally grant re-print permissions to third parties. Since one of our chief missions is the dissemination of technical information, it is important that we acquire the right to permit articles appearing in IEEE publications to be translated, abstracted, or otherwise reprinted in appropriate publications elsewhere, as we have traditionally done.

The Publications Committee has recently voted to abolish the editor-in-chief position and to transfer its current responsibility to a newly created “editor for special publications.” It has also passed a resolution that tenure for senior and associate editors be limited to two terms of a maximum of four years in the same job and the same journal. These changes have the approval of the Governing Board.

Finally, and most importantly, we need your input and guidance in order to serve you better. Any suggestions or criticisms that you may have will be seriously considered. We also need volunteers—particularly those of you serving in industry! Please contact me c/o Dept. of Electrical & Computer Engineering, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202, telephone: (313) 577-3920.

Tse-yun Feng
Vice-President, Publications

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The 1978 NCC featured an extensive personal computing festival, chaired by Jim C. Warren, Jr. This digest includes over 50 papers presented at that festival, most of which represent very recent work. Topics include social impacts and legal aspects, applications, roles in education and learning, word processing, speech recognition, programming, hardware, and bit-slice systems. Includes the proposed standard for the S-100 bus.

Non-members & members — $12.00

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