From the Awards Committee chairman

One of the most satisfying rewards professionals may have is the knowledge that peers recognize and appreciate their contributions. The Computer Society's Awards Program is aimed at promoting the exchange of knowledge by rewarding those who communicate to others the interesting aspects of their work. Researchers who fail to present their theoretical triumphs to peers have failed in one of their most important obligations, i.e., the dissemination of knowledge. Conversely, presenting a paper in a journal or proceedings, or giving a talk, answering questions and having a lively discussion at COMPCON or COMPSAC is doing colleagues a genuine service. Many Computer Society awards are directed at encouraging this type of knowledge exchange.

A vital part of making the exchange of technical information possible is the organizational work which makes the communication mechanisms possible. It follows then that service awards should also be given for outstanding work such as activity on committees, and the running of conferences and workshops.

The Governing Board has enthusiastically supported the expansion of the Computer Society Awards Program to cover both types of activities. The following is a summary of available awards:

Certificate of Appreciation. Award is based on an outstanding technical or organizational contribution. Computer society membership is not mandatory.

Honor Roll. Award is based on continued leadership or meritorious service to Computer Society activities in either a technical or organizational area over a period of two or more years. Award is granted only to society members.

Special Award. Award is granted for continuing contributions to major Computer Society activities or an outstanding contribution to developments which have a major influence in the computer field. Computer Society membership is not mandatory.

McDowell Award. This award is granted to one recipient annually and includes a certificate together with $1000. It is granted to an individual whose professional work in computer technology, programming, education, or management has been outstanding.

Joint ACM-IEEE Eckert-Mauchly Award. The Computer Society cosponsors an annual award presented at the Symposium on Computer Architecture. A certificate and $1000 comprise the award. The award is granted for contributions to the field of computer architecture in either

From the Vice-President, Conferences and Meetings

When one mentions computer conferences, most of the professionals in the United States might think only about the National Computer Conference. (If you were one of the over 57,000 attendees at Anaheim this year, you might still be thinking about the long lines at the NCC and wondering about next year in New York.) But here in the Computer Society, our perspective on conferences and meetings does not involve size and exhibits. We are happy to leave that to A/FIPS. What we want to offer is a means for computer professionals to share experience and knowledge and to interact as individuals.

Since the Computer Society is a large group of individuals with a great variety of individual interests, we attempt to serve those interests with a series of both conferences and smaller meetings. The Computer Society's primary conferences are the Spring and Fall COMPCONs held on the West and East Coasts, respectively, and COMPSAC, the newly established conference on computer applications held near the end of the year in the Midwest. These are large conferences with 600 to 900 attendees, providing an excellent opportunity for members to assemble and discuss their work and mutual

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interests. However, even these conferences are often too large to really accomplish the goal of close interaction between people. To fill this need, we have a series of smaller conferences and meetings covering subjects ranging from computers in cardiology to data communications. Last year the Computer Society sponsored or cosponsored over 35 conferences and meetings with a total attendance of over 7000. In addition to providing a forum for professional and personal interaction, these conferences and meetings allow participants to develop and publicize new areas of interest.

If you look on page two of this issue of Computer you will see a list of technical committees representing those areas of interest that have been identified and considered coherent enough to provide the basis for a continual focus of activity. In addition to supporting these existing committees, we are looking for new activities and new areas of special interest within the society. We are continually attempting to have more individuals participate in the activities of the society. Perhaps your area of interest is not suitably covered by a conference, meeting, or workshop. Then let me suggest that you consider the possibility of having a special meeting in your area of interest. If you are interested in pursuing this goal, you should contact the vice-president for conferences and meetings through the executive secretary of the society.

Philip H. Enslow, Jr.
Vice-President,
Conferences and Meetings

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The Computer Society Awards Committee also recommends candidates to the IEEE Awards Committee for additional awards, such as the IEEE Piore Field Award. The Piore Award, sponsored by IBM, is presented annually at COMPCON.

During 1977-78, the Computer Society presented the following awards:

Certificate of Appreciation 34
Honor Roll 15
Special Award 3
McDowell Award 2
Best Paper Award 2
Piore Award 1

One of the most difficult problems facing the awards committee is obtaining nominations. The committee reviews and approves awards but cannot possibly know all deserving candidates. The award nomination process is simple—contact the Chairman of the Awards Committee for a form on which to nominate a candidate. Mail the form to the Awards Committee Chairman and the review process will automatically start.

Rex Rice
Chairman, Awards Committee