From the TIC vice presidents

The Computer Society has now completed a year of operation under the new organizational structure for technical activities. At present there are two technical interest councils (TICs), each of which is composed of an operating committee (Op-Com) and ten technical committee (TC) chairmen. Considerable effort was devoted during the past year to defining various job functions within the Op-Coms and the way in which they relate to the TC chairmen. The result of this work is a structure which will allow strengthening of technical activities within the society.

In general terms, the TICs are responsible for serving the technical interests of the entire membership across the society's scope. This responsibility is carried out principally by the Op-Coms. The TCs, on the other hand, have the function of serving the entire membership within their own clearly defined scopes. Thus, while the TICs' interests are necessarily broad, those of the TCs are narrow. This allows in-depth concentration on particular areas without sacrificing the ability to view the larger picture, allowing adjustments to be made as dictated by the rapid evolution of the profession.

Since the TCs provide many opportunities for involvement in society functions, it may be useful to describe what TCs do in some detail. The normal way for a TC to fulfill its requirement of service to the entire membership is through workshops and symposia in its specific technical area. These are open to all who wish to participate formally. In addition, a TC may organize its own session at one of the society's major conferences. Sometimes selected papers from a workshop, symposium, or conference session comprise a special issue of a Transactions or of Computer.

Many of our TCs publish newsletters, some of which carry non-refereed technical articles in addition to summaries of activities, meeting notices, etc. These presently are distributed to all members of the TC free of charge. There is considerable interest on the part of many TCs concerning enlarging their newsletters. This will be one of several topics to be considered during upcoming long-range planning sessions.

To join a TC of your choice simply write to the appropriate TC chairman or TIC vice president. The society depends upon volunteer effort for its vitality and, in turn, has much to offer those who become involved.

As can be seen from the masthead of this magazine, we are active across a broad technical spectrum. There are, nevertheless, many gaps in our coverage and we are making attempts to establish activity in several new areas. For example, a new TC has been formed to serve the needs of our members concerned with distributed processing. We have just established ad hoc committees to consider the creation of additional technical committees in the areas of computer graphics and applications of computers in medicine for participation by those interested in planning and carrying out activities in these technical areas. We hope one or more of our activities will be of personal interest to you and sincerely invite your assistance in maintaining the Computer Society's leadership position in the computer science and engineering profession.

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