SPEICAL MESSAGES

From the treasurer

December 1978 concluded another good year for the Computer Society. As summarized in the circle charts below, preliminary financial results indicate that total income for the year was $2,282,500; total expenses, including provision for a $50,000 reserve for Abacus, the proposed AFIPS publication, were $2,291,800. Hence the Computer Society essentially broke even for the year with a net loss of $9300 when the reserve for Abacus is included or a net surplus of $40,700 if Abacus is excluded. (The Computer Society is no longer obligated to provide funds for Abacus because the magazine has not met its agreed upon deadlines.)

Examining the sources of income provides insight into the society's finances. No single source provides more than a quarter of our income. The largest single source is publication sales which contributed more than a half million dollars this year. About one quarter of the sales are made by the IEEE Service Center in Piscataway.

1978 Income: $2,282,500

1978 Expenses: $2,291,800

From the Membership Committee chairman

The Membership Committee is charged with promoting the continuous growth of the Computer Society. The committee is composed of dedicated volunteers and capable staff members whose objectives are

- to actively recruit new members,
- to retain present members, and
- to promote transfers in grade to ensure that each member holds the highest grade for which he is qualified.

The committee’s current members are Jack Lipovski, Mike Mulder, Oscar Garcia, Merlin G. Smith, Harry Hayman, True Seaborn, and Russell E. Theisen, chairman.

The Membership Committee’s plans include advertising in trade publications, establishing membership booths at various conferences, providing membership material and displays to the chapters, cosponsoring the Micro-Mouse contest, contacting non-renewing members with personal letters, and notifying the area chairmen of members qualified for grade promotion.

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From the Membership Committee chairman: cont’d from p. 3

The committee welcomes ideas on how we can better meet our objectives. If you have constructive suggestions, please write me and I will bring them before the Membership Committee at our next meeting at COMPCON Fall 79 in September. Mail them to: Russ Theisen, Martin Marietta Aerospace, Orlando Division, P.O. Box 5837 MP-75, Ground Based Laboratory, Orlando, Florida 32855. Better still, bring your suggestions to COMPCON Fall 79 and attend our meeting.

The Membership Committee began its work on December 11, 1961 with the formation of the Professional Group on Electronic Computers of the Institute of Radio Engineers. This group, with two chapters and an initial membership of 1000, was the beginning of the Computer Society. By the time the Computer Society as we know it evolved following the merger of the IRE and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, under new bylaws adopted April 22, 1964, the membership had grown to approximately 9500 with 26 chapters. Today we are approaching 40,000 members and 86 chapters. We hope for 45,000 members and 100 chapters by 1980. This will be easy if every member takes advantage of "The Great Membership Race" (see p. 98 in this issue) and gives a membership application to an associate who does not yet benefit from society membership. Thanks for your help.

Russ Theisen
Chairman
Membership Committee

From the treasurer: cont’d from p. 3

away, New Jersey; the rest are made by the Computer Society Publications Office in Long Beach, California. Conferences provide the second largest source of income—slightly less than a half million dollars. Our share of the National Computer Conference generates the largest revenues, followed by the COMPCONs and other major conferences such as Computer Networks. The three periodicals published in 1978—Transactions on Computers, Transactions on Software Engineering, and Computer—together provide nearly a third of our income, with the two monthly publications each providing about $300,000. (Computer is not credited with society dues income.) Membership dues in 1978 provided 7.3 percent of our income. The Computer Society received only $6 per member in 1978 and $8 per member for 1979. Each regular member also pays an additional $35 fee (plus regional assessments) to IEEE; affiliate members pay $20 to IEEE. A comparison between finances of the Computer Society with those of ACM shows that the single largest difference is that ACM has available the whole of its membership dues whereas the Computer Society has available only a small fraction. Other sources, including investment income, provide 17.1 percent of society income.

The largest expense is Computer, totaling nearly $700,000 in 1979. The three periodicals spent 42.7 percent of society revenues. Society administration, IEEE expenses, and expenses for miscellaneous IEEE publications such as the Solid State Journal and the Journal of Ocean Engineering took 19.8 percent of the budget. Conference expenses were the third largest at approximately one sixth of the budget. Expenses for committees such as Chapters, Membership, Technical Activities, and Educational Activities amounted to 7.1 percent. The reserve for Abacus amounted to only 2.2 percent of the total.

Year-end reserves, including reserves for Abacus, totalled $714,200 or 31.1 percent of 1978 expenses. Computer Society policy suggests that reserves should be 30 to 50 percent of expenses. Because of our desire to provide more membership benefits and because of rapid membership growth, we are now near the lower limit of that range. Compared with other IEEE societies and groups, we are well below average in both reserves as a percentage of expenses and reserves per member. We are watching these ratios carefully with an eye to possible downturns of the economy; nevertheless, they are both likely to decrease in 1979 because of scheduled expansion of the society.

The society is sponsoring several new or expanded ventures in 1979. First is the introduction of a third transactions—the IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence. We expect this transactions, like its sisters, to break even on a long-term basis; however, first-year losses are expected to be about $25,000. The society is contributing $30,000 as a cosponsor of a series on personal computers for high school students to be aired on instructional television networks. We are markedly increasing our support for our chapters and are providing a number of workshops for chapter leaders. Both technical committees and our Education Committee plan major new thrusts. As a result, 1979 is currently budgeted for a deficit, although continued improvements in publication sales and conferences might make 1979 another break-even year.

Looking toward the 1980s, we are trying to develop additional activities to benefit both our members and the public. We are currently considering a fifth publication; we are looking at major expansions of our highly successful tutorials; and we are always looking at new possibilities for conferences. Thanks to all of you who made the Computer Society what it is in 1979 and for providing all of us with additional opportunities for 1980.

Martha Sloan
Treasurer