Each year approximately 120 senior members of the IEEE are elevated to Fellow grade, a membership grade of unusual professional distinction. Fellow grade is conferred by the Board of Directors upon a person of outstanding and extraordinary qualifications and experience in the fields of electrical engineering, computer science and engineering, electronics, radio, allied branches of engineering, or the related arts and sciences, who has made important individual contributions to one or more of these fields. The candidate must hold senior member grade at the time the nomination is submitted and must have been a member in any grade for five years as of January 1 of the year of election. (The year of election is the year following affirmative action by the Board of Directors in conferring the grade of Fellow.)

The Computer Society, with a membership of over 40,000, represents over 22 percent of the IEEE membership. One would expect that 24 to 25 Computer Society senior members would receive the Fellow award each year, but the number awarded in the computer field rarely exceeds 12 to 15 per year. Awards cannot be made unless sufficient nominations are made each year. Clearly there is an urgent requirement for all members of the Computer Society to take action in submitting such nominations for their associates who qualify for the Fellow grade.

Nomination forms can be obtained by writing to the Staff Secretary, Fellows Committee at IEEE Headquarters, 345 East 47th St., New York, NY 10017.

To be eligible for consideration, a nomination must be received by the Fellows Committee on or before April 30, 1980, and must include references from five IEEE Fellows. A copy of the nomination form, B-29, plus an evaluation form, B-3, must also be sent to the Computer Society Fellows Committee. These forms should be addressed to me at 480 Ocean Blvd., Apt. 5E, Long Branch, NJ 07740.

In evaluating the nomination, the IEEE Fellows Committee considers nine criteria. In approximate order of importance, they are

1. individual contributions as engineer/scientist/originator, technical leader, or educator;
2. evaluation by an IEEE group or society (or more than one of them);
3. team contributions resulting from leadership and management clearly identified with the nominee;
4. evidence of technical accomplishment, such as publications, patents, peer recognition, etc.;
5. opinions of confidential Fellows who know of the work of the candidate personally (where possible, they should be associated with other than the candidate's own organization);
6. service to IEEE (and its predecessors, the AIEE or IRE);
7. professional engineering service other than IEEE;
8. opinions of endorsers; and
9. total years in the professions.

Preparation of a Fellow nomination is not difficult, but considerable time is required to obtain the necessary references. To ensure meeting the deadline date of April 30, 1980, you should start preparing your nomination immediately.

I look forward to your cooperation in this endeavor.

Samuel Levine, chairman
Computer Society Fellows Committee

February 1980