Slate of nominees selected for Computer Society officers and Governing Board

The following nominees were proposed by the Nominations Committee and approved by the Governing Board on May 23 in Anaheim:

For officers

President: Richard E. Merwin
First vice-president: Oscar N. Garcia
Second vice-president: Ned R. Kornfeld

For Governing Board

Rolland B. Arndt
Taylor L. Booth
William D. Carroll
Gerald Estrin
Dennis Fife
Ronald G. Hoelsman
Willis K. King
Theodore A. Lailiotis
Harlan Mills
Sylvester M. Neville

David Pesel
Ralph Preiss
Roy L. Russo
C. V. Ramamoorthy
Barbara Sternick
Russell E. Theisen
Kenneth J. Thurber
Peter W. Verhofstadt
Charles R. Vick

Additional nominees may be added to the ballot via membership petition (see February 1980 Computer, p. 93, for petition candidate requirements as stated in the Computer Society Bylaws). Petition candidates must submit their petition signatures (50 voting members for board nominees, 250 voting members for officer nominees) to the Computer Society secretary, together with their biographical data and candidate statements, on or before August 1, 1980, at the following address:

IEEE Computer Society 5855 Naples Plaza Long Beach, CA 90803
Attn: Computer Society Secretary

Length limitations and format suggestions for these materials are as follows:

Position statements

President 350 words
Vice-president 200 words
Board member 125 words

Biographical data (all nominees):

200 words
Suggested sequence of topics:
- IEEE CS activities
- Other professional activities
- Current employment and position, professional experience and accomplishments
- Degree(s) and major(s)
- Awards and honors

Nominees are also requested to submit a recent black and white photo, preferably 3" x 5" or larger, to appear with their biographical data.

NCC keynoter Packard: US technical lead challenged

"Japan, with industry and government working together...has made a commitment to become a world leader in computers." With that warning, NCC '80 keynoter David Packard, chairman of the board of the Hewlett-Packard Company, urged the American computer industry to redouble its efforts to maintain the US lead in computer technology.

Speaking on May 19 before an overflow audience of over 1000, Packard outlined a three-part strategy: industry support of basic research and education, industry-provided incentives for innovation, and industry/government action to encourage the formation of risk capital.

Citing the contributions to basic technology made by the R&D labs of such giants as IBM and AT&T, the speaker noted that even small companies have done important work. But more importantly, all companies, especially the smaller ones, can "do more by helping support basic research at university laboratories."

One area urgently requiring such research is device reliability. Echoing the growing alarm of American computer manufacturers, Packard stated that his own company often "can get better parts from [the] Japanese...than from our American friends."

Support of university research must be accompanied by similar industry support of educational programs in those areas relevant to American firms' manpower needs. Not only does an almost crisis-level shortage of qualified personnel exist today, the keynoter pointed out, but demography itself will worsen the situation. "Demographic changes will reduce the number of young people aged 18 to 24 by an estimated 21 percent between 1981 and 1995." This will demand that American universities educate a much larger percentage of students in computer-related disciplines. It is in industry's self-interest to support university programs, Packard asserted.

Innovation must be encouraged, i.e., made financially rewarding by companies. Stock options, the
speaker noted, had been one such reward until they "were made very much less valuable when the law was changed to make the stock gain taxable when the option was exercised rather than when the stock was sold." Government action to reinstate the old rules "would help maintain a better environment for innovation."

The formation of risk capital is essential to the expansion of the US computer industry. Acknowledging last year's reduction in the capital gains tax, the keynoter called for even more changes in the tax laws to encourage capital formation.

Packard added that in the 1980's chief executive officers would have to become much more involved with legislators and government officials, not only to encourage changes such as the above, but also to ensure that government regulation of the computer industry be kept to a minimum.

In seeking resources to meet the foreign challenge, industry should turn to itself rather than to government, the speaker cautioned. "The federal government almost always has its price for its help, and the benefits are often not worth [that] price." A relatively unregulated industry, relying on its own resources and working constructively with government to encourage capital formation and innovation, has the greatest chance to maintain the American technical edge.

NCC keynoter David Packard urged more industry support of education, basic research.

Computer Society staffers Barbara Cunningham (left) and Sue Woodward handle booth duties—10,000 copies of the May COMPUTER were distributed to NCC attendees.

*NCC '80

Another year, another record for NCC. Opening day attendees crowd over 1400 exhibits that required five separate halls. Four-day attendance of 80,232 was up 1389 from NCC '79. Recalling the long lines that swamped the Anaheim Convention Center at NCC '78, conference organizers successfully introduced Sunday advance registration. Next year, the National Computer Conference shifts to the Midwest for the first time since 1974. Scheduled for Chicago's McCormick Place May 4-7, NCC '81 will again include the popular Personal Computing Festival. In addition, AFIPS will continue the Office Automation Conference—the second OAC will be held March 23-25, 1981, at the Houston Civic Center.
Four new TCs proposed

The Technical Interest Councils of the Computer Society have received requests for the formation of four new technical committees. These new committees and their proponents are:

Technical Committee on Office Automation: Peter C. Chen, Graduate School of Management, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024; (213) 825-1428.

Technical Committee on Computers in the Health Sciences: Abund O. Wist, Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, MCV Station, PO Box 16, Richmond, VA 23229; (804) 786-9846.

Technical Committee on Computers in Energy Systems: Michael D. Mulder, Bouleneville Power Administration, PO Box 3621—EPC, Portland, OR 97208; (503) 234-3361, Ext. 5073.

Technical Committee on Rehabilitation Engineering: James H. Aylor, Dept. of Electrical Engineering, Thornton Hall, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22901; (804) 924-3042.

Lists of prospective active members for these committees are being compiled by the organizers mentioned above. Please feel free to contact the organizer if you are interested in contributing to one of these activities.

The chairmen of existing technical committees will formally consider the proposals for the formation of these new TCs at their meeting on September 25, during COMCON Fall in Washington, DC. Some of the new committees will have organizational meetings during the conference. Announcements will be posted.

Harvard provides directory of computer graphics suppliers

A directory devoted exclusively to computer graphics suppliers is available from the Harvard Newsletter on Computer Graphics, published under the auspices of the Harvard University Laboratory for Computer Graphics.

For more information, visit Booth 221 at SIGGRAPH or contact Directory Dept., Harvard Newsletter on Computer Graphics, PO Box 89, Sudbury, MA 01776.