From the conferences chairman

By any measure—membership, publications, chapters, or budget—Computer Society growth over the past few years has been significant. Activity in the conference area is no exception. In reviewing the master meeting schedule, I note the number of conferences, symposia, workshops, and other meetings in which the Computer Society is involved has risen from 50 in 1979 to 62 in 1980. The attendance and number of papers presented at many of these meetings is also increasing.

In addition, more of the larger meetings are offering preconference tutorials, and separate tutorial weeks are being organized and offered.

Numbers and size, however, are not the goal. The Computer Society's goal in offering conference activities is the expansion of services to more fully meet members' needs. This means expanding the scope of existing meetings and organizing new workshops and conferences as the needs arise. In addition, attendance at tutorial sessions has shown the need for more tutorials on a wider variety of topics. The Computer Society, through its technical and conference committees, is attempting to determine specific needs and address them.

In addition, the quality of both conferences and tutorials is of continuing concern. There are ongoing efforts to improve the presentation and refereeing of the papers to be presented and to improve both the content and presentation of the tutorials.

To accomplish these objectives, we need assistance in planning both conference and technical activities. New conferences and workshops do not start by themselves. Areas of new activity and interest need to be identified and pursued, and often such areas are not covered by existing technical committees or meetings. Efforts must often start at the grassroots level—individuals with a common interest can organize a workshop or petition to organize a technical committee covering their area of interest. Or they can contact an existing technical committee or conference/workshop with related interests. We strongly recommend both of the above routes. If there does not seem to be an appropriate existing technical conference committee, I or one of the Technical Interest Council chairmen should be contacted. Technical committee and the TIC chairmen are listed on the opposite page. All can be contacted through the Executive Secretary, Harry Hayman, PO Box 639, Silver Spring, MD 20901; (301) 589-3386.

The committees for specific conferences welcome help and participation. Such involvement provides the society with new blood and new ideas. From my own experience, I find one can get far more out of society membership by actively participating. I encourage you to try it. Future conferences, symposia, and workshops, with contacts for each, are listed in the Call for Papers and Calendar sections on pages 110 and 112.

I encourage each of you to let us know your needs and how they can be better served by the society; I also urge you to take an active interest in meeting those needs by participating in the society activities aimed at fulfilling them.

R.B. Arndt
Chairman, Conferences and Meetings Committee

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