From the Division V director . . .

Today the IEEE has over 200,000 members. Almost 50,000 of them belong to the Computer Society, which grew by 17 percent last year, making it the fastest growing part of the IEEE. The other 29 groups and societies range in size from the Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society with approximately 1500 members to the Power Engineering Society with approximately 20,000 members. While the typical society has only one major publication, the Computer Society has six and participates in councils that produce two others. The society's rapid growth and broad scope of activities have made it a major part of the institute.

As your representative on the IEEE Board of Directors, I coordinate closely with President Tse-yun Feng to see that the views of Computer Society members are heard by the IEEE board. For example, during the past IEEE budget cycle, Professor Feng and I worked hard to defeat a proposal to increase the affiliate dues by $5.00. Strong support in this effort was supplied by Computer Society Vice-President Martha Sloan and Computer Editor and Publisher True Semborn. Martha Sloan has also served as a very active member of the IEEE Technical Activity Board Finance Committee, where she has effectively worked to minimize charges to the Computer Society. While the IEEE plans to raise the general membership dues by $8.00, the Computer Society plans no increase in its regular member dues, affiliate member dues, or Transaction subscription fees.

Success in the Computer Society depends upon the efforts of the volunteers. I would like to personally thank the following people for spending their time representing Division V on IEEE boards and committees: Joseph Logue, TAB Awards and Recognition Committee; Martha Sloan, TAB Finance Committee; Nicholas Vogle, TAB Meetings Committee; Oscar Garcia, TAB Search Committee; Stephen Shapiro, TAB Transnational Relations Committee; Ned Kornfield, Professional Activities Committee coordinator; Harold Fleischer, Publications Board; Ronald Hoelzeman, RAB Membership Development Committee; Carolyn Landis, Committee on Social Implications of Technology; Jack Andreason, Energy Committee; and Noah Prywes, TAB Technical Committee for Large Scale Systems. These people have my warmest appreciation for their efforts in representing the Computer Society.

The international aspect of the technical activities continues to grow in importance. This past August, Stanley Winkler, chairman of the TAB Transnational Relations Committee, and I visited Region 9, which represents Mexico, Central America, and South America. While Region 9 is larger geographically than any United States region, its membership is relatively small. In many cases, however, the Computer Society chapters are almost as large as the IEEE sections in these areas, and new chapters are being established—most recently in Chile, Brazil, and Mexico. At the meeting, interest was expressed in holding computer-related conferences and professional development seminars in the countries in Region 9. Another important computer-related event in the international area is the 1980 IEEE Study Group on Computers, led by Professor Tse-yun Feng, which recently visited the People's Republic of China at the invitation of the Chinese Institute of Electronics. These international activities of the Computer Society are important and will continue to expand.

As I look toward the future, I am very bullish on the computer field. We are in the midst of a computer revolution which will assure the continued growth and expansion of the Computer Society. I would like to see the Computer Society representation on the IEEE Board of Directors increased from one director to three directors to more equitably reflect the Computer Society's contribution to the IEEE. With the advent of computer engineering departments at the universities and the growth of software engineering, the institute should encourage maximum participation in this exciting new area. Now might be the time to consider changing the name of the institute from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers to the Institute of Electrical and Computer Engineers. In my opinion this would encourage increased participation of the computer professional in both the Computer Society and the IEEE.

Dick B. Simmons
Director, Division V
IEEE Board of Directors