FROM THE PRESIDENT

Board acts to cut expenses, increase revenues

President Roy L. Russo

The Board of Governors has approved increases in the subscription prices of all Computer Society periodicals. These increases, effective in 1987, were necessary to meet rising production and distribution costs and to curb the deficits generated by some of the magazines in recent years.

In addition, the board approved a $5.00 increase in the society membership fee for 1987. This increase, which will bring the society basic membership fee to $15.00, is the first increase in member dues since 1983. The increase was approved in order to help the Computer Society maintain a stable financial position despite the current downturn in the computer industry and the attendant reduction in many society programs and revenues. Among the difficulties with which the society's leaders have had to cope are a radical reduction in the funds heretofore generated by the National Computer Conference, shortfalls in advertising revenues from our magazines, reduced attendance at many society-sponsored conferences and tutorials, and reduced income from publication sales. Even with the increase, member dues will still represent well under 10 percent of total society revenues, an exceptionally low proportion compared with similar professional societies.

The board also took many actions directed at reducing expenses, eliminating well over a half-million dollars in expenditures in 1986. Taken together, the board's actions to constrain expenses while cautiously increasing fees and income constitute a prudent plan to assure that the Computer Society will weather the current storm—maintaining its financial stability during the computer industry downturn, yet remaining positioned to resume its program of expanded services to its membership and the profession when the industry recovers.

Best regards,

Roy L. Russo

Tom Cain now acting-president

Shortly after sending the above message, Computer Society President Roy Russo was hospitalized for heart surgery. As of press time, the news was encouraging: the surgery was successful, and Roy is experiencing a good recovery. The arrangements for the continuing operation of the society's business are best explained in Roy's own words. We share with you (below) his August 22, 1986, notice to the Board of Governors, Executive Committee, and senior staff. —Ed.

I write to notify you that I will be undergoing heart surgery and expect to be incapacitated for a period of about three months. Therefore, as provided in the constitution of the Computer Society, effective August 23, 1986, First Vice President Tom Cain will be serving as acting-president. Tom will remain acting-president until I issue a notice revoking this directive. In the very unlikely event that I remain incapacitated into 1987, the then first vice president will become acting-president.

Tom and I have worked closely together, and I can assure you that the society will be in the best of hands. I am sure you will support him as much as you have me.

I will be in touch with both Tom and Michael Elliott, executive director,]o the extent possible.

I had secretly hoped for a short break from the demands of the presidency, but this is not exactly what I had in mind!

Acting-President Tom Cain is an associate professor of electrical engineering at the University of Pittsburgh. He had been serving as first vice president for publications.