



OCEANIC ENGINEERING SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



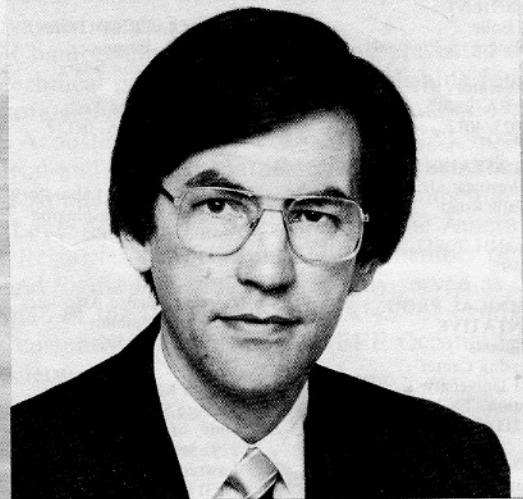
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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

The new era has begun, we are now the Oceanic Engineering Society (SOE), a full fledged IEEE Society. As in the beginning of any new era, there are great challenges before us and the future holds bright promises. We now have the opportunity to do things as a Society that we could not do previously under the old Council structure. The principal opportunity, and the prime mover in our becoming a Society, is the ability to have members and to organize local chapters, thereby developing a grass roots community with interests in oceanic engineering. Active chapters will provide us with local organizations which can help run the OCEANS Conferences and allow the locations of these to continue to move around the country, and beyond. They will allow us to meet with our professional colleagues on a more regular and informal basis and receive the awareness, stimulation and personal growth that flows from that.

And with the opportunities come responsibilities. Many are clearly implied in the above challenge to organize local chapters. Beyond that, we must clearly establish ourselves as a Society, with distinctives which are clear and clearly communicated. We must work through the new relationships with the other IEEE Societies, especially those who previously sponsored us as a Council. While we are in one sense launching out as a new Society, we must remember that oceanic engineering is multi-disciplinary. Changing our organizational structure does not change that; we still need the other Societies and they continue to need us. The ocean is an environment in which the disciplines represented in the various IEEE Societies will continue to be applied. As a Council we had a natural linkage to the Societies which sponsored us. While they no longer sponsor us, we must maintain that linkage, for our benefit and theirs. Perhaps we need technical committees which parallel the Societies; perhaps these committees should be joint-society committees.



These and many other issues and challenges need to be worked out as we establish ourselves as a Society. This is a time in which we need everybody's involvement. I hope you see the challenge and the opportunity for you to participate with us. If you are not currently involved in SOE activities and would like to be, please contact me or one of the other officers of the Society.

Stanley G. Chamberlain
President

