



EDWARD B. KINNER

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New President's Message

I appreciate greatly the opportunity you have afforded me to serve as your president during the forthcoming year. I look forward to working with you to continue the excellent program of the B.S.C.E. Section from which we all derive benefit. In commencing my presidency, I wish to thank past President Perkins for the outstanding leadership he demonstrated during the last year. The program and achievements of his administration serve as challenges to all of us.

There are several items relating to Section activities which require attention in the months ahead. The first relates to what I will call society interaction. Some members have expressed concern that the activities of

the individual technical groups do not provide for adequate interaction with other segments of the Section. To the extent considered practical and reasonable, more joint meetings of the technical groups will be held this year to foster more broadly based activities. Joint meetings with local Student Chapters will also be incorporated into the program to provide the students an opportunity to interact with the practicing engineers. Vice President Scranton will be managing the scheduling of these joint meetings. The excellent monthly luncheon series that we have had in recent years will be continued. I urge those of you in management positions to encourage attendance in the luncheon series by engineers from all levels of your organizations. Lastly, a determined effort will be made to revitalize elements of the Society's social functions. The summer clambake has been a great success recently, and this activity will be continued. However, concerted effort is needed to reverse the declining trend of the fall/winter Dance which, in fact, was not held this year. A group of "under 35" volunteers has been recruited to plan an activity which will attract both the young and the more mature.

The second general item of importance relates to Section finances. In this period of continuing inflation, the Section leadership has a responsibility for limiting expenses while continuing to provide a quality program. A thorough review of costs will be made with the intent of limiting expenses wherever possible. Our method of budgeting and accounting will also be reviewed. The Section dues have not been increased for about three years. While I prefer not to recommend a dues increase, I do consider it necessary to evaluate whether or not a dues adjustment is needed. In connection with our dues, numerous local sections have in recent years had ASCE National collect their dues. These local sections have, in general, experienced an increase in the number of dues-paying members as well as accelerated dues collection. A National dues collection program for the B.S.C.E. Section will be evaluated within the context of the unique aspects of our local structure. The final financial item relates to the investment of our Permanent Fund. The Freeman Fund Committee has raised a question concerning both the recent and current yield on investment in relation to the inflation level. As chairman of the Investment Committee, Treasurer Murdock has been asked to oversee a special re-evaluation of our investment policies. Several individuals from throughout the Section will be asked to participate in this very important effort. I ask that Mr. Murdock or I be contacted by anyone who can make a substantive contribution to this effort.

The B.S.C.E. Section Journal is another item of considerable importance. The Journal has a rich history, but in recent years has suffered a decline in availability of good technical papers. A study of the Journal by the Publications Committee last year resulted in the decision to pub-

lish two issues annually instead of four, to consider reprinting papers of significant historical interest, and to emphasize case study papers and those of practical interest. Additionally, each of the technical groups accepted the responsibility for providing at least one acceptable paper in its field annually. Vice President Rossier has been asked to ensure that these very important recommendations are implemented. I urge you all to support your Section's Journal through the submission of quality papers on both technical and professional matters.

Membership is another area which should be of great interest to us all. Our membership statistics for last year show 129 additions as compared with 99 losses. This net gain was the result of a very diligent effort by the membership committee. I have asked Vice President Rossier and Director Donnellan to take a personal interest in the membership effort this year to further promote active membership by civil engineers in Massachusetts.

The last specific topic I wish to mention pertains to our Energy Committee. An Ad Hoc Energy Committee was formed in 1979 for the purpose of stimulating local participation relative to energy issues. Commencing this year, the committee will be renamed the Energy Committee. Deletion of the Ad Hoc designation has been made to signify the rightful place of such a committee as a permanent segment of our Section's affairs. In order to provide maximum support to the Committee's efforts, I have asked that several of the technical groups co-sponsor meetings with the Energy Committee.

In closing, I wish to emphasize that the strength of the local Section depends directly on participation and support of you — the individual member. The spectrum of Section functions including the monthly luncheons, technical group meetings and lecture series, social functions and committee activities collectively provide areas for participation by engineers of all experience levels and technical or professional interests. I urge you all to actively support your Section.

Edward B. Kinner
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