



BERTRAM BERGER
President, Boston Society of Civil Engineers Section ASCE
1976-1977

President's Message

Our publication, the *Journal* represents some 63 years of continuous communication between the Boston Society of Civil Engineers Section and its members. The publication has gained an international reputation for the quality of its content. As we begin the 128th year of the society, the *Journal* maintains its integrity by again publishing articles of significant interest to section members.

Competition from periodicals of National ASCE and other societies has through the years caused concern as to the number of submissions and the quality of papers by members. Two years ago the status of the *Journal* was reviewed after the merger of BSCE and Massachusetts Section/ASCE, to see whether there was justification for committing the effort and support to continue its publication. The Board of Government decided that it was important to continue the *Journal* and furnish to our membership papers of local interest as well as papers of a technical nature and high quality. Therefore, it is important that the members continue to support the *Journal*, by contributing papers of the kinds mentioned.

This year, the third year after the merger, the society continues to grow and expand its services. Membership is on the rise; the professional and technical activities continue to be the most successful among all sections nationally; the publications (the *Journal* and the *Forum*) have received national recognition; membership support and participation in all areas of society affairs is unmatched and is one of our greatest assets; and the student chapters have again excelled and established programs and accomplishments of the highest caliber.

To continue with this success, our programs will be strengthened by the following:

- working with the student chapter committee and general membership to foster new directions and incentives in order that students may be directed into the mainstream of the society. We hope to give them a greater sense of responsibility and belonging.
- establishing a committee to reevaluate the associate member forum as to the lack of interest by younger members, and to make specific recommendations and to implement these recommendations.
- recharging the Intersociety Committee on Engineering Professionalism to continue its work relative to improving the financial status and image of engineers and encouraging professional responsibility.
- organizing a committee to prepare an operations manual for the society, outlining the responsibilities and purpose of each of our office holders, technical group chairmen, and committee chairmen.
- establishing a task force for the 1979 ASCE National Convention which is to be held in Boston. This task force will be formulating the programs and arrangements to guide the convention committee. At the New England Council Meeting the other state sections agreed to participate with us as hosts and make this a New England-sponsored ASCE National Convention.

Since our Annual Meeting I have been more than gratified at the support offered by the membership, which I would like to think is due in part to a remark I made in delivering my short talk at the close of the meeting:

“It is important, as members and office holders, not just to *serve* but to *contribute* so as to instill new ideals and new meaning, into our profession. Our profession needs this and needs your contribution.”

Bertram Berger
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