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1977-1978

### *New President's Message*

Upon merger of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers and the Massachusetts Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers four years ago, Thomas Liu instituted the practice of including a brief message by the incoming President in the April issue of the *Journal*. This was a wise decision, for it gives the new President the opportunity to present his set of goals for the coming year.

The Section's professional and technical activities are outstanding, most notably those provided by the seven Technical Groups and the Committees on Action Program-Professional Practice, Continuing Education and Student Chapters. These are expected to continue, along with renewed emphasis on implementation of the employment practice conditions set forth in Manual 55.

The Operations Manual Committee has just completed a document that details the duties and responsibilities of all officers, committees and technical groups within the Section. It also reorganized the administrative setup, combining several committees and calling for greater involvement by all members of the Board of Government, and presumably less administrative work by the President. Hopefully, the Manual will be translated from "theory to practice" during this coming year. In addition, the Section will most likely be moving to share new headquarters at 80 Boylston Street with CECNE and MSPE.

The status of the *Journal* needs to be reviewed to determine whether the sizable effort and financial support required for its continued publication are warranted. This should be a serious study with input from the general membership. Evaluation of the principal social functions, the Dinner Dance and Clambake, is also in order if these affairs are to enjoy wider membership participation. The format and contents of the Annual Business Meeting need to be greatly improved: attendance is poor and except for the President's Address, little meaningful business is conducted.

Finally, I am concerned about a general lack of interaction, and perhaps even a growing separation, between academic institutions and the practicing profession regarding shaping the contents and teaching of undergraduate and graduate curricula, methods to deal with its escalating costs, and development of more meaningful programs of continuing education. Given our heritage in engineering education and practice, it is fitting that the BSCES initiate a new era of friendly cooperation between the educator and the practitioner.

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