

President Post

Osama Mohammed

After my first year at your service as ACES president, I am happy to report that our beloved society is on its way to being an important and influential institution in the field of applied computational electromagnetics. The conference is a highly influential outlet for promoting awareness of recent technical contributions to the advancement of computational electromagnetics. This year's annual conference in Monterey will be one of the best conferences we have had in some time, thanks to Dr. Atef El-Sherbeni for his leadership and efforts. The conference will feature new and original presentations, panel discussions as well as invited talks in a wide range of interest. We have noticed increased international participation and many long time ACES participants are coming back. With the new format of this annual review, the ACES participants will find more time for networking and discussions during the panel session, plenary sessions as well as in social functions and lunches.

Authors who submitted papers for the 2003 annual conference have the option of submitting an extended version of their accepted papers for peer review and possible publication in special issues of the ACES Journal.

In an effort to enhance the value of membership and increase membership services, the ACES Board of Directors restructured the membership fees as a direct consequence of the society's move to electronic publications and on-line access to these publications. Now the membership dues are quite reasonable and the complete fee schedule has been published in the November 2002 issue of the newsletter featuring the basic, moderate and expanded levels in addition to institutional memberships. The goal of this restructuring activity is to eventually convert all of our members to on-line access of services.

We have created the member communication committee. Under the leadership of our colleague Vince Rodriguez, monthly communications have been delivered to members via e-mail. This has increased the access for members to information and knowledge relating to society activities and has contributed to increased participation resulting in improving membership services. I expect this trend to continue and I have personally received a number of messages from ACES members around the world with offers of assistance and participation in activities. In the near future the member communication committee will be charged with the creation of an effort to increase the membership numbers, keep membership statistics and identify additional membership services. The creation of ACES Chapters overseas will also be discussed and acted upon.

The ACES web site has become an important tool in delivering membership services and publication. My sincere congratulations to Dr. Atef El-Sherbeni for his leadership, dedication and innovative contributions in getting the web site to a highly professional level with various levels of access and data tracking. Now the web site is used for conferences, the newsletters and the ACES journal in addition to comprehensive member services. In the near future, the ACES web site will be the main source for delivering almost all of the membership services as well as conferences, publications and administrative activities.

The conference committee is working hard to identify sites and groups who will agree to organize the conference for the next five years. Since our annual conference is the main source of funding, this long-range plan is very important to ensure the long-term viability of the society's finances.

Dr. Rene Allard, our nomination and election committee chairman announced the results of Board of Directors elections, which include Dr. L. Kampel and the re-election of Drs. T. Sarkar and O. Mohammed for three-year terms starting March 2003. Our sincere thanks and appreciation go to Dr. Allard for his valuable efforts in this process.

The Annual conference in Monterey will have several social functions including a reception, wine and cheese, all lunches and the Awards Banquet. Awards represent a major part of ACES operations and are a way to thank those who have done so much for our society. The Awards Banquet will feature many awards for deserving ACES members who have helped the society for years and for those who have contributed to the success of the annual conference. I encourage all participants to attend the Banquet to congratulate our colleagues and to spend a nice evening with the ACES family.

As I promised you in my first message in July 2002, I will continue to promote ACES on all fronts and will work hard on getting our society to be valuable for its members and a financially viable organization for our future. On behalf of the ACES Board of Directors, I invite all members to participate in achieving these goals.

O. Mohammed
ACES President