

Report of the President



It seems impossible to believe that a year has gone by since we met in Baltimore and I had the honor of accepting the Presidency of the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.

It has been an exciting year for me and for the Society. As in any organization the size and scope of ours, it is the members and a dedicated Staff who are responsible for whatever achievements are accomplished. I believe that the unselfish giving of time and commitment that our membership brings to the Society is far beyond what one could expect.

When I became President, it was my good fortune to follow a group of dedicated, responsible people whose prime objective was, and continues to be, the success of the Society. The wise counsel, guidance and cooperation of the Past Presidents, Officers, Directors, Committee Members, Society Members, and Staff, have made accomplishments possible during my term as President.

The relationship between ASPRS and ACSM, our sister Society, has been strengthened over the past year for several reasons. Bill French and Rick Dorman have been able to act as a team, opening lines of communication between both Officers and Staff. ACSM's President, Alberta Auringer Wood, has not only been a delight to work with, but has achieved a quality working relationship between our Executive Boards. This has promoted a true spirit of cooperation between the two Societies.

Alberta and I were fortunate enough to work as a team in representing our Societies at: The AM/FM International Meeting at Snowmass, Colorado, the International Cartographic Association in Morelia, Mexico; and just a few weeks ago at the Joint ASPRS/ACSM/ASPLS Meeting in Anchorage. For the mutual benefit of our Societies, I believe that a continuing policy of cooperation should be encouraged at every opportunity between the Officers, Boards of Directors and Staff. If we would just be willing to know our neighbor and to engage in dialogue with each other, many of the problems and concerns of the past would disappear.

As was the case with past officers of our Society, I had many opportunities to visit the Regions to get to know the people and their concerns. I have traveled most of my career for Eastman Kodak Company and I have met hundreds of people, but I don't

think I have ever experienced the hospitality and close professional friendship extended to me by the regional members.

I would like to thank everyone I met for being so hospitable to both Eve and myself. The backbone of our Society is the membership. I encourage the Officers following me to take every opportunity they can to meet our members on their turf.

The Long-Range Planning Subcommittees identified by Roger Hoffer were established this year and under the current direction of Al Stevens will be providing us with preliminary reports. It is essential that we have a comprehensive plan to move the Society toward the year 2000.

Our Joint GIMS Committee, lead by Billie Swenson and Terry Keating, had a great year. The GIS '87 Meeting in San Francisco exceeded everyone's expectations—thanks in no small part to Mike Renslow and Russ Congalton. I think that this is another example of where both Societies working together can produce outstanding results.

All of us owe a big round of applause to Dr. Ralph Kiefer and Ms. Patricia Northcutt. Their efforts in stimulating the student interest in our Society are critical to our long-term success.

Historically, the publications made available to our members have made ASPRS unique. The unsung heroes are the members of the Publications Committee, chaired by Larry Fritz, and the Associate Editors, who year after year produce a quality product. Our idea to develop a plan to combine our manuals, and to publish addendum volumes to current manuals, has been implemented. A special committee comprised of our Division Directors, chaired by Bill Johnson, is working closely with the Publications Committee. They have this important program well underway.

Our membership has increased 3% during the past year. This is a solid gain which certainly can be attributed to the dedication of our Staff, and to the membership in general. I think most of us would agree that one of the most successful methods of gaining new members is person-to-person contact. Colvo has told us how he personally carries membership applications with him when he takes business associates hunting. He has success in signing up new members. Some of us aren't sure whether his success rate comes from his persuasive personality, or his 12-gauge shot gun!

The conventions our Society sponsors are an integral part of our organization. They provide not only a technical forum for the Society, but are also becoming increasingly important as a revenue source. Those of you who have been part of a convention committee don't have to be reminded of the work and unselfish dedication that is required in order to have a successful meeting. Without the convention revenue, it would be impossible for us: to serve the membership technically, to promote the Society as a whole, or to be financially responsible.

A significant reason for our meeting successes is the support that our Society receives from its Sustaining Members. Their participation in supporting ASPRS, both financially and professionally, in every facet of our science, warrants our continued thanks and appreciation.

One of the key issues currently being addressed, is our headquarters site. Last December, ACSM had an opportunity to sell the property we have shared for the last five years. Arrangements have been made for both ASPRS and ACSM to lease the facility from the new owners for 12 months with the option of 2 six-month renewals. Both Executive Boards adopted a resolution to continue to colocate. In addition, President Wood and I appointed a joint committee to prove us with recommendations which will be presented at our respective board meetings later this week.

As I look forward to the year 2000, I am confident that with the dedication and resourcefulness we as individuals and as a Society possess we can indeed achieve the professional leadership our Society deserves.

—John J. Graham