

## Executive Director's Report

President Graham, ladies and gentlemen; welcome to the 54th Annual Meeting of the Society; the 5th convention to be held in St. Louis. As usual we have been treated to St. Louis cold weather and the warm welcome of our friends.

To the best of my knowledge, Convention Director George Cline has been involved in all 5 meetings in some way—the last 2 (1980 and 1988) as Convention Director. He and his staff deserve our sincere thanks for a job well done.

1987 was a very exciting and busy year for the Society. In preparing this report, I found that I did not have to make up a theme because our activities displayed their own theme: cooperation!!!!!! At every level, in every way, 1987 was marked by cooperation. I will try to mention a few examples but they will not be a complete list. We don't have the time.

In 1987, I traveled more than I ever have in my 25 years in association work. Most of my trips involved cooperation:

- Between members and members
- Between regions and national
- Between other societies and ASPRS
- Between our neighbors around the world

Members cooperated by paying their dues promptly and by joining—we had a 3% increase in membership, at year-end there were 7573 members (6321 regular and 1251 student) and over 170 sustaining members. They also cooperated by making 1987 our best year ever for convention attendance, with over 9200 going to Baltimore and Reno.

Financially everyone cooperated. We had revenues of \$1.416 million, expenses of \$1.35 million and a surplus of \$65,000—the third straight surplus. Our audit also contained good news, the members equity increased over 100%, by \$68,000. A special vote of thanks is due to the Officers and our Board of Directors who had the foresight to establish a sound financial policy of developing a cash reserve.

Regions cooperated by holding more meetings than ever before, publishing more newsletters and providing service to their members.

ASPRS has entered a new era of inter-society cooperation. Our committee on Inter-Society/Liasion has made contacts with many of our sister societies to provide closer ties.

Our relationship with ACSM has never been better. Officers, Board Members and Staff are consistently providing opportunities for joint activities.

The GIS/LIS technology is causing a revolution within our Society, and it isn't a quiet revolution. GIS '87 was a landmark meeting, thanks to the work of many dedicated people. ASPRS, ACSM, AAG, and URISA have joined together to jointly co-sponsor in every way GIS/LIS '88 in San Antonio next November.



Administratively, your Staff is more knowledgeable and expert than ever before. New members include Finance Director Mrs. Bonnie Gabbert, Ms. Barrie Levinson our Marketing Manager, and Mrs. Carol Sontheimer our Publications Sales Manager. All of your Staff is dedicated and devoted.

Internationally, we hope that our friends abroad will cooperate in '88 by selecting the US as the site for the 1992 ISPRS Congress. A strong group of members led by Larry Fritz has been developing our proposal. Wish us luck!!

As I begin my 12th year as Executive Director, the Society faces its greatest opportunity and its greatest challenge. In late 1987, the ACSM Board of Directors, after careful study, decided to sell the ACSM building at 210 Little Falls St. Within a few weeks an offer was made, negotiations were completed and the building was sold in early January 1988.

During 1987 ASPRS, ACSM, AAG and URISA were also discussing the possibility of setting a GIS/LIS Center which could house the Officers of all four groups (and others), a research library and a learning resource center. Your Board is looking very carefully at all the options and will keep you informed of its decision.

1987 was exciting and 1988 looks even better. With your help and cooperation it will be.

—William D. French, Executive Director



A busy exhibitor.