

Executive Director's Report

President Colvocoresses, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests; Welcome to the 55th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. The Convention has been an outstanding success; Director Peter Gibson and his staff deserve our thanks for a job well done.



Five years ago, we celebrated our 50th Anniversary. At that time we took a look back at our roots, and ventured a look ahead to our future.

I don't think that many could have guessed that we would be raising one-half million dollars to purchase our own building in conjunction with ACSM.

Who could have predicted the explosive growth of GIS/LIS technology as demonstrated by GIS/LIS '88, with over 3,000 attendees?

Who would have foreseen that ASPRS, ACSM, AAG, and URISA would join forces to produce such a success?

And who could have imagined that in 1989 we would be submitting our first two million dollar budget, just five years after hitting one million?

Who also could have anticipated that, after travelling to the most distant ISPRS Congress ever held, in Kyoto, Japan, we would return hosts for the 1992 Congress in Washington, DC?

As we celebrate 55 years, you can see just how far we have come in 1988. At year-end we had 6,666 Active Members and 1,345 Student Members, for a total of 8,011, an increase of 6% over 1987. Sustaining Membership was at an all-time high of 183. The number of Sustaining Members can vary from time to time because of mergers and acquisitions, a sign of the volatility of the market place.

Regions were quite active in 1988, with many holding large Regional Conferences, attracting from 100 to 600 attendees. Financially 1988 was not a great year. As usual, I get to tell you the bad news. With income of \$1,542,000 and expenses of \$1,545,000, we had a slight deficit of about \$3,500 of expense over income. However, we did not put any money into our Reserve Fund in 1988; a shortfall of \$50,000.

Administratively, we have implemented a major change with the development of a new budget format. We have set up 7 "cost centers," not "profit centers," and have allocated costs to each center in much greater detail. Mrs. Gabbert, our Finance Director, prepared a new Chart of Accounts and spearheaded the new budget format. This is the first major change in Budget reporting in over 20 years. We have some new staff members: Ms. Camille Millburn was appointed Membership Manager after serving as an intern during the summer of 1987. Mr. Todd Mason is the Publications Sales Manager and our Accounting Clerk, Miss Kim Mays, is our newest staff person.

1989 is a special year for our most senior staff person, Mrs. Jean Engel. Jean is celebrating her twentieth anniversary this year; a record for longevity. The Staff continues to improve in our ability to serve you, the members.

A few comments on our current programs. Although we have raised over \$140,000 — with thanks to the Eastman Kodak Company for their most generous gift — I am a little concerned about the lack of member participation in the Fund Raising. Only 406 people have contributed as of last week. Once we have settled on a location, I encourage more of you to help make our Headquarters a reality.

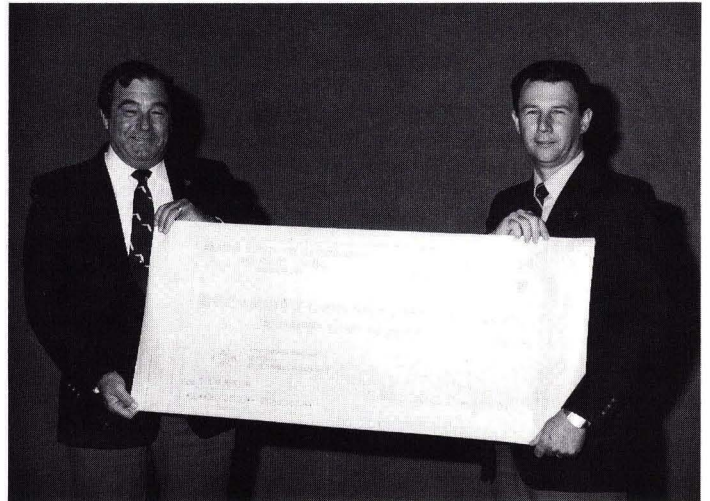
Continuing on about our building; last year I reported that ASPRS, ACSM, AAG, and URISA were looking to establish a joint headquarters. For the last 12 months we looked together, but I must report that today, only ASPRS and ACSM are continuing to search together for a new office. I would say that "Institutional Issues" and pressing need made it impossible to stay together in a joint building venture.

However, we are all committed to working on projects of common interest, and have plans for more joint programs in the future.

As I enter my thirteenth year of stewardship, I want to thank the Officers, Board, Staff, you the members, and my wife, for continuing to allow me to serve you.

Thank you.

— William D. French, Executive Director



Ed Comer, President of the Florida Region presenting an oversized check to Professor David Gibson of the University of Florida.