

President's Address

1990—The Beginning of a New Era for ASPRS

Roger M. Hoffer

At this first annual convention in the 1990's, it seems clear that we have entered a new era in the continuing evolution and development of ASPRS. For the first time in the 56-year history of our Society, we now own, rather than rent, our Society Headquarters facilities! As you are all aware, after a careful examination of various alternatives and a long, detailed search, both ASPRS and ACSM purchased condominium suites of offices at the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRF) Center, near the northern portion of the Washington, D.C. beltway. This location has several very significant advantages, including a low mortgage rate, no property or sales taxes; a relatively new, well-maintained building in a beautiful location; and close proximity to several other scientific and professional societies. The staff moved in and began operations at the new Headquarters on November 2, 1989, and a formal dedication was held on January 12, 1990. This purchase is a historic step forward for our Society!

The Fund Raising Campaign for the new Headquarters is going reasonably well and is now very close to the halfway mark toward the \$500,000 goal. All money received goes directly to pay off the principal. Success in reaching the goal will allow us to continue to concentrate our resources on the technical programs of the Society.

The past year has been eventful in terms of a number of other major decisions and areas of activity. In November 1989, for the first time ever, five national societies sponsored the highly successful GIS/LIS—the major annual GIS/LIS conference anywhere in the U.S.! Along with ASPRS, the conference was sponsored by ACSM, AAG, URISA, and AM/FM. This joint sponsorship has proven to be very successful, is working well, and will continue into the foreseeable future with an annual conference in mid-November—a time frame that seems to be the best compromise for meeting the needs and schedules of all five societies.

In view of the tremendous increase in interest in GIS technology over the past few years, a new technical division—the GIS Division—was approved by the Board of Directors, and activities were initiated at the Annual Convention one year ago. It has been a busy year for the people in this GIS Division as well as the other four Technical Divisions, and I want to compliment all of them for their continued efforts to improve the quality and quantity of the technical programs and activities available to our membership.

The decision was made this year to combine the Fall Convention with the GIS/LIS Conference, and discontinue the separate, stand alone ASPRS/ACSM Fall Convention. This change is large-

ly due to the significant decline in numbers of attendees and exhibitors at the Fall Convention over the past several years. Our sustaining members and the exhibitors have clearly indicated that the Annual Spring Convention and the GIS/LIS Conference are the two major meetings that they are most interested in supporting, so we believe this decision is the appropriate one at this point in time.

Other improvements in the technical programs of our Society during the past year include a 30% increase in the number of manuscripts submitted to *Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing*; we've had a significant increase in number of technical papers and sessions at the Annual Convention, and this year for the first time in many years, ASPRS had a series of tutorial sessions on Sunday, just prior to the Annual Convention. This increase in the technical program being provided to our membership is a big step forward, and I hope that we will all continue to work together to make the quality of the technical program even better in the years ahead.

Other major activities that have been initiated this year include a revision in our entire awards and recognition program, and the beginning steps in developing a Convention Procedures Manual and a Society Standard Operating Procedures Manual. The Board of Directors has approved, in principal, a Society "Fellows" recognition award, and hopefully that will receive final approval at the Board meeting tomorrow. Today, we initiated the "International Education Literature Award," a significant step forward in improving the availability of professional literature in the educational institutions of developing countries.

Our membership continues to grow and I urge each of you to continue to use or to start using the "with me" principle in asking people to come with you to ASPRS activities! If we all work together to get people involved in our Society at the local level, it will make this the dynamic, meaningful kind of organization we all want it to be!

Finally, I would like to thank each of you for coming to this First Annual Awards and Recognition Luncheon. By having this luncheon in place of the three-hour Awards and Business Meeting of previous years, we have freed up an entire morning for technical sessions, and a larger number of you have come today to help in recognizing the tremendous number of people who have so generously volunteered their time and talents to make ASPRS what it is today. You are a fantastic group of hard working people, and I want to thank each of you from the bottom of my heart for helping to make this a super year for ASPRS and a most interesting, productive, and enjoyable year for me. Thank you all, and may God be with you in whatever the future may hold. Thank you!



President Hoffer with Russian delegation