

## From the Vice President The Role of Committees in CBE



**Blaire Mossman**

The word “committee” derives from the Latin *committere* meaning to connect or entrust. The definition encompasses both personal and organizational aspects of participating on CBE committees. How better to network with one’s colleagues than to work together on a committee? CBE invests its confidence in such working groups with the expectation of accomplishing our organizational goals.

CBE’s committees include Administrative, Awards and Honors, CBE Views Editorial Board, Editorial Policy, Education, Finance, Information Management, Membership, Nominating, Program, Publications, Sponsorship, and Style Manual. These groups serve members in various ways. Readers have tangible evidence of the Editorial Board’s efforts when each issue of the Views appears. Have you ever attended the annual meeting? If so, you have been a beneficiary of the Program Committee’s labors, and those who attend the short courses reap the bountiful rewards of the Education Committee’s efforts.

The Finance Committee advises on budgeting for new and continuing projects. Fiscal stability is vital to CBE’s ability to provide member services and initiate new endeavors. The new Sponsorship Committee aims to solicit funds to enhance the annual meeting and other activities. The Administrative Committee did yeoman’s work in seeking and selecting a new management firm on very short notice. We ask the Awards and Honors Committee to recognize accomplishments of our own members and of others in scientific publication.

Thanks to the Information Management Committee, CBE has a Web site and is seeking other ways of making the exchange of information and ideas more accessible. The challenge to the Membership Committee is to recruit editors to join and to retain those who have already become members. Names of candidates to run for office emerge from the Nominating Committee. The Style Manual Subcommittee produces the book for which CBE is most recognized — *Scientific Style and Format*. Our other publications result from the creative and productive endeavors of the Publications Committee. Those on the Editorial Policy Committee have formulated several policy statements that CBE endorses.

Do you have ideas for projects CBE might consider undertaking? Have you wished you could change some of our practices? Are you fiscally or electronically savvy? CBE’s strength lies in the dedication and generosity of spirit of its members. Every member has something valuable to contribute, and committee participation is the ideal way in which to exercise one’s talents. Committee chairs are eager to enlist new members. I invite you to let me know how you wish to become involved. You will derive personal satisfaction while furthering our organization’s programs.

Blaire V Mossman

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