

From the President

Comments at the CBE Business Luncheon 24 May 1999

Blaire V Mossman
CBE President

I feel very much like Janus, the Roman god of doors and beginnings. Portrayed with faces in both directions, he signifies how important it is for an organization to look backward before moving forward. With Past President Barbara Meyers and President Pat Huston at the helm, CBE has completed a year befitting its proud tradition of accomplishment. The jewel in our crown of publications has always been *Scientific Style and Format*. Now, hot off the press, is *How to Teach Scientific Communication*, by F Peter Woodford. Annual meetings continue to offer topics of interest to our varied constituencies. Last year I was course director for the Short Course for Managing Editors, which we offered for the first time. The positive responses were gratifying, and so the course took place again at this meeting. The family of short courses now includes offerings for journal editors, manuscript editors, and managing editors. They serve as a training ground for newly appointed and veteran editors alike.

With these respected activities as CBE's foundation, the future seems bright indeed. In 1998 the Scope and Mandate Task Force surveyed the membership. The task force concluded that our membership is no longer restricted to editors who work exclusively in the life sciences and made 2 recommenda-



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tions: that we officially broaden the membership to all sciences and that we change the organization's name to Council of Science Editors to reflect more accurately who we are and whom we wish to become. Although such a name change has been suggested in the past, by your overwhelming approval you were bold and insightful enough to bring this idea to fruition. We will effect this change on 1 January 2000 with great expectations. Now is the time to demonstrate your support and enthusiasm for the name change. I challenge you to invite your colleagues to join CSE. The Membership Committee offers you a free annual-meeting registration for the San

Antonio meeting if you recruit 5 new members by the end of 1999.

A new print version of the membership directory will appear this year, in addition to the electronic version already available. *CBE Views* thrives as the Council's chief communication vehicle, serving especially those who are unable to attend the annual meeting. These are 2 very tangible benefits of membership. While we all applaud and eagerly anticipate growing membership numbers, we would be remiss if we sacrificed member services for more members. Let the quality of our programs be our hallmark. Our workshops, short courses, retreats, and annual meetings are all designed to serve the needs of our members. They aim to provide the tools for science editors to function more effectively in the 21st century in a collegial environment. As legendary boxer Archie Moore once said, "We're assembled in the largest room in the world: the room for improvement." I would like to see our programs continue to grow and improve for our members' enrichment. Please let the officers know your concerns and interests so that we can implement activities to fill your needs. Please be generous with your time and expertise to enable CSE to enact the programs you suggest. With your ideas, suggestions, and talents, you can all assist in this ambitious effort.

CBE/CSE Committee Chairs 1999-2000

Awards and Honors	Barbara Meyers	Nominating	Pat Huston
<i>CBE Views</i>	Barbara Gastel	Program	Tom Lang
Editorial Policy	Michael Callaham	Publications	Leesa Bruce
Education	Annette Flanagin	Sponsorship	Diane Scott-Lichter
Membership	Barry Davis	Style Manual	Peggy Robinson and Bob Wilbur