

## A Polling of Our Past Presidents: Part II

### Barbara Meyers

As promised, here are more thoughts from past Council presidents on the occasion of our 50th anniversary. They share memories of how CSE has changed and how it has helped to shape their lives.

### From: Arthur Freeman CBE President 1985-1986

There is a life that follows a career as an employed editor. After serving many years as editor-in-chief for the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), I was elected AVMA's executive vice president (CEO), and this dissolved my involvements in editing and publishing. However, in retirement in 1996, I took on the volunteer assignment as American Association of Retired Veterinarians (AARV) newsletter editor and secretary and continued for 9 years until I was elected president of AARV. I retain my assignment as newsletter editor, a publication opportunity that allows me complete freedom to develop newsletter content. Now that's editorial fun!



Arthur Freeman in 1985

In 1977, I joined CBE, served on the Board of Directors as program and logistics coordinator for the annual meeting in Chicago in 1983, and then served a year as CBE president. Best of all were those great friendship experiences with Phil Altman, Marge Foti, Jeffrey Watson, Arly Allen, Lyle Heim, Bernie Forscher, Lew Gidez, Frances Porcher, Paul Anderson, Betty Zipf, and others.

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BARBARA MEYERS was CBE president in 1997-1998.

### From: Martha Tacker CBE President 1993-1994

Fifty years of CSE. And I've been a part of CSE for over half of them. I don't know which fact is more thought-provoking (and pleasing) to me. It has been a pleasure and an honor to be part of this organization dedicated to improving scientific communication. The best part, and the greatest accomplishment of the Council, in my view, is the bringing together of talented, thoughtful, and generous people who have made CSE the go-to organization for training, standards, and networking in scientific editing. My strongest memories of CSE are of the many people who did the work of CSE, from leading to listening, and who made working with them satisfying and fun. So I see that CSE's most important role during the next 50 years is to continue providing an environment in which such people can create, share, solve problems, and become not just colleagues but role models, mentors, and even good friends.



Martha Tacker in 1998

### From: Barbara Meyers CBE President 1997-1998

What is ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP?

Leadership is . . . watching one colleague sharing knowledge with another.

Leadership is . . . developing short courses that engage and enrich the professional lives of many.

Leadership is . . . creating meeting programs that stimulate through challenge and insight.

Leadership is . . . talking about issues that others may not wish to address—ethics, developing world information infrastructures, and everyday professionalism—and then doing something about them by

creating scholarships, engaging in meaningful discourse, and keeping abreast of technologic advancements.

Leadership is . . . belonging to an organization that, because of the contributions of its members, will endure across generations of professionals.

The Council of Science Editors offers organizational leadership to its members and to the scholarly and scientific communities.

CSE has held a special spot in my professional heart since I became a member nearly 25 years ago. It serves a unique purpose in the scholarly publishing community, with its organizational dedication and leadership regarding high-quality information made real by the everyday actions of its members through our books, journals, and other publications that allow progress in all the sciences.

In my mind, one of the major goals of CSE as an organization is to continue as a conducive environment for all of us to develop professionally in order to maintain and improve on our organizations' contributions to the highest-quality literature in their disciplines. Through its educational programs, publications, and annual meeting, the Council assists us to maintain and increase our awareness of ethics, standards, and technology—all in a most collegial atmosphere. Many of my CSE colleagues have made special marks on our industry and on the lives of many of us. I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them collectively for their generosity of knowledge and spirit. May all of you have special moments in your future involvement with CSE.



Barbara Meyers in 1997

*Past Presidents continued***From: Michael Held  
CSE President 2003-2004**

Since joining the Council of Science Editors (then Council of Biology Editors) in 1990 under the mentorship of Susan Eastwood at a time when I was actually editing, I have seen many changes in the Council as well as in my own career path. Throughout all the changes in my career from editor to managing editor to director of publishing, I have found tremendous support and knowledge in the many wonderful colleagues that I have met through CSE.



**Michael Held  
around 2001**

Just as I have grown, I have seen CSE grow in breadth and excellence. I have

watched it once again become financially sound through the promotion of a solid fiscal policy and investment strategy. The biggest changes in the society and its biggest ongoing challenges came via the re-evaluation of the society's role through the Scope and Mandate Task Force, which laid out a series of goals that, although difficult to achieve, are being tackled rigorously by the active membership and result in such major activities as the Task Force on Science Journals, Poverty, and Human Development. I have observed the evolution of *CBE Views* into *Science Editor*, a highly respected, well-run journal that is always filled with valuable information for the members, and I have seen the growth and usefulness of the Web site from its infancy. I have watched our sponsorship program grow and our education programs evolve. Our annual meeting has become increasingly valuable to the member-

ship, and our policy committee has again become active. All those activities and more have come from the devotion and commitment of our busy volunteers, who donate lovingly their time and effort, commodities that are in short supply in these busy times. That said, although there are many worthy organizations out there, CSE will always hold a special place in my heart, especially because of all the truly wonderful relationships that I have enjoyed with members in all parts of the scientific community. It has always been an honor to serve on the various committees and the Board that have so enriched my life. May we always remember our mission "to promote excellence in the communication of scientific . . . information." 🙏