



Report of the 1981 President

Robert H. Merrill

Despite the negative economic climate, 1981 was another year of solid growth and activity for the Institute. Total membership was 86,279 at year end and AIME will likely pass the 100,000 member mark within the next few years as this rate of growth continues. Increased activity by AIME Societies in technical conferences and meetings was also apparent during this past year.

However, 1981 may best be remembered as a year of change. Dr. Edward Buckley succeeded Joe Alford as AIME Executive Director on December 1. The AIME Board of Directors adopted a new protocol for the Annual Meeting giving the Constituent Societies greater responsibility in the management of this conference in the future. The Ad Hoc Transition Committee, charged with defining the future relationship between the Institute and its Constituent Societies under the decentralized mode of operation, began its deliberations and was active throughout the year. In addition to my responsibilities as your president, I have had the privilege of serving as chairman of this most important committee, which is scheduled to complete its recommendations on a revised AIME structure early next year.

The Institute continues to play a key role as one of the five Founder Societies, as a Trustee of the United Engineering Center and as a member of the American Association of Engineering Societies. Although AIME has been an active contributor to the goals of these organizations, I have sought to ensure that our relationship with these groups has been in the best interest of our membership.

When I became president, I felt confident that AIME was effectively meeting the needs of its members. The opportunity to talk with many of you at numerous conferences and section meetings over the past year has reaffirmed this confidence. Your cooperation on the many committees and operating units of the Institute is truly appreciated, and your continued efforts will result in an even stronger AIME in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert H. Merrill".