

Vern Sterba

ANNUAL REPORT TO A. I. Ch. E. COUNCIL FOR 1974
MACHINE COMPUTATION COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 30, 1974

Present Machine Computation Committee (MCC) membership is 34; two members resigned and four new members joined. The Committee met in Tulsa (March) and Washington (December) in 1974. Also, in June, a newsletter was sent to all members to bring them up to date.

1974 was a building year for MCC with the full effects not expected until late '75 or '76. The previous organization, based upon Special Interest Groups, was phased out, starting in the latter half of 1973. Instead, members are variously invited, urged or cajoled into participating in projects sponsored by the Committee. These projects have been proposed by members and approved at an MCC meeting. (At the Tulsa meeting, provision was made for written ballot, to be mailed to all members, to decide matters that could not wait until the next meeting.)

In 1975 the MCC meetings will be held at the Houston, Boston and Los Angeles meetings.

MCC GOALS - A report was made to Council at the Pittsburgh meeting regarding Committee goals. Council was satisfied with the report and made a few suggestions to improve our effectiveness.

MEMBERSHIP - Vern Sterba is the newly-appointed Membership Chairman for MCC. Jim Eakman and he are mailing a questionnaire to 300 chemical engineers who are known to be interested in computing. It is expected that many new committee members will be recruited from the respondents. The first mailing of the questionnaire is to take place this week. A second mailing is planned, to be sent to all A. I. Ch. E. "Code 77" members -- those whose chemical engineering specialty is computation.

PROGRAM PUBLICATION - Ron Klaus is the MCC Editor of this important project. (Ron is also Vice-Chairman of MCC) During the past year, arrangements have been made to publish the programs and their descriptions in Computers and Chemical Engineering, a new journal to be published by Pergamon Press with Dick Hughes as the Editor. A. I. Ch. E. will distribute the programs and their documentation at cost to members (double that for non-members). All programs will be evaluated by Committee members and the program descriptions will be refereed by them, too. Bob Morris will help recruit the referees and evaluators.

NATIONAL MEETING PROGRAMS - A total of 4 computer sessions were held in 1974, in cooperation with Program Committee, Area 1d. Three other computer-related sessions in applied math were also presented. Warren Seider is our representative to Area 1d and Ted Peterson is the chairman of the sub-committee. In 1975, five computer sessions are planned as well as three in applied math. Tentative plans have been made for 1976.

LIAISON - Ted Briddell provides our liaison with Simulation Council, Inc., primary sponsor of the Summer Computer Simulation Conference (co-sponsored by A. I. Ch. E.).

Tal is the chemical engineering program chairman for the 1975 Conference, to be held in San Francisco, July 21 - 23. One of the important MCC needs is to develop solid liaison with numerous other computer groups and keep the interested A.I. Ch. E. members informed. Warren Seider has been advising us of CACHE activities and will recruit an MCC member to be on the CACHE committee as our representative. A goal for 1975 is to select an MCC member to coordinate all liaison activities.

COMPUTER PROGRAM SWAP SHOP - Announcements of this project appeared in seven of the last 12 issues of CEP (none in the last 4). One new computer program was offered. An evaluation of this activity has been initiated to determine whether more effort should be made.

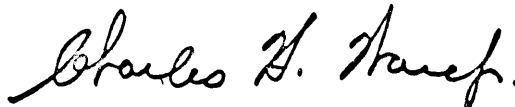
A. I. Ch. E. JOURNAL REVIEW - Alan Glueck is preparing a review for the Journal. It will be similar in scope to other reviews published there recently. Three MCC members will furnish their comments and suggestions prior to it being submitted.

TECHNICAL NEWSLETTER - The committee has approved, in principle, the publication of a Technical Newsletter. It would include reports of liaison activities and short articles of computer work contributed by members. The articles would either contain technical information of direct use or, for more far-ranging subjects, enough information on possibilities and difficulties so that a reader could judge whether he had an interest. All we need is an editor and publisher (we have a few authors).

MATERIALS DATA BANK - At the request of F. J. Van Antwerpen, we have assumed responsibility for making a recommendation to him regarding A. I. Ch. E. endorsement of a National Materials Data Bank proposed by Science Information Association. Seven MCC members met with N. Cottrell, President of SIA. Our recommendation will be made in January.

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING CALCULATION CENTER - Several members of MCC are interested in the possibility of establishing such a center. Two technical sessions are planned for 1975 to explore this idea, one at the Summer Computer Simulation Conference and the other at the Annual Meeting. No committee action has been taken.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles H. Ware, Jr.

Chairman

Machine Computation Committee