

ANNUAL REPORT TO A.I.Ch.E. COUNCIL FOR 1975

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MACHINE COMPUTATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 16, 1976

Present Machine Computation Committee (MCC) membership is 57, as compared with 34 at the end of last year. This increase is due partly to the advertising for help in CEP and partly to the increased visibility arising from the increased activity. The Committee met in Houston (March), Boston (September), and Los Angeles (November). The last two meetings included lunch with attendance of 9, 14 and 23, respectively.

In 1975, there was some real growth in MCC, although we have not yet reached the plateau of constructive activity that we have had our sights set on for the last year. The organizational structure continues as before: members contribute to the activities in which they have a special interest or valuable experience and the leadership comes from the most interested member of the group, all on an ad hoc basis. MCC officers for 1976 are: Charles H. Ware, Jr., Chairman; Vernon J. Sterba, Vice-Chairman; and Warren D. Seider, Secretary-Treasurer. A third officer was added to aid in the continuity of leadership and the treasurer's duties were added to handle the budget that was established for MCC. In 1976, the MCC meetings will be held at the Kansas City, Atlantic City, and Chicago meetings.

MEMBERSHIP - Vern Sterba has been Membership Chairman and will continue in that job in 1976 as well as serving as MCC Vice-Chairman. He and Jim Eakman sent out 300 questionnaires and received a total of 70 responses. These responses identify computer interests and will serve as a resource for MCC members who organize activities and as a stimulus to the respondents to join and work for MCC. A second mailing is planned which will include the one thousand AIChE "Code 77" members -- those whose chemical engineering specialty is computation. The CEP ads have also been helpful in attracting new members.

NATIONAL MEETING PROGRAMS - Warren Seider has been our representative to the Program Committee, Area 1d, and will continue for the present at least, while also serving as the new Secretary-Treasurer. Ted Petersen is the Chairman of Group 1. A total of 11 technical sessions were held, 4 of them in computing and the rest in applied math. In 1976, 8 sessions in computing are planned and 1 in applied math.

PROGRAM PUBLICATION - Ron Klaus is in charge of the review of computer programs and their descriptions. (He is also retiring from the MCC Vice-Chairmanship and has chosen not to serve as Chairman.) He is Special Feature Editor for the new journal, "Computers and Chemical Engineering", in which the program descriptions will appear. Dick Hughes is the Editor; a firm publication date has not been set. This publication project will supercede the Swap Shop.

AICHE JOURNAL REVIEW - Alan Glueck is preparing this review. The scope, introduction and outline are ready but MCC's internal review has not yet begun.

LIAISON - Ted Leininger is coordinating liaison with computer groups outside of AIChE. About six liaison people have been identified and policy is being set. The information obtained from interaction with other groups will appear in the MCC Newsletter, and we will keep them informed regarding AIChE activities. Because of the lack of interest on the part of MCC members, we have recommended, and Council has approved, to end participation in the Summer Simulation Conferences.

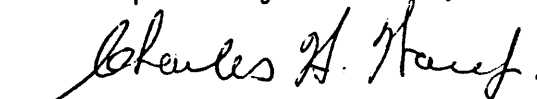
TECHNICAL NEWSLETTER - Sig Lawrence is the editor of an informal newsletter which will begin publication in the first quarter of 1976. (Sufficient material is on hand for the first edition.) A typical issue will contain: one substantive article relating the author's experience in some computer area; liaison reports of upcoming meetings, reports from past meetings, special projects; notes on interesting magazine articles, books, etc.; editorials; and, letters to the editor.

MATERIALS DATA BANK - Council approved AIChE's endorsement of the data bank proposal of Science Information Associates. When they have demonstrated the operability of their data-gathering technique at other installations, AIChE will get it to work in its publication cycle. We do not expect to hear from them for another year or two.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHEMICAL ENGINEERING COMPUTING - MCC has begun formal consideration of such a center. Two panel discussions were organized by Charlie Ware with Warren Seider, and an ad hoc committee has been organized under the direction of Rudy Motard. Two "Institute News" articles have been written for CEP (October '75 and March '76). Close liaison exists between MCC and national computing center groups in ACS and ASCE. A decision is expected at the Kansas City meeting regarding the direction we would like to explore and how we will do so.

DIVISION STATUS - Bob Morris heads up a committee comprised of former MCC Chairmen to prepare a proposal for the formation of a division. MCC already functions as a division, and the official status would create increased visibility of MCC activities, recognition of members, budgetary responsibility, and, perhaps, wider participation of MCC members in the technical programming. Bob Weaver, Chairman, Area 2L of the Program Committee (Systems and Process Control), has been asked if his committee would like to join us in this effort. He has met with MCC, and the preliminary response from his group is, "Yes".

Respectfully submitted,



Charles H. Ware, Jr.
Chairman
Machine Computation Committee

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