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## President's message [2000, Vol. 23, no. 2]

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Although more than half the year has passed and we may all wonder where the time has gone, I am pleased to report that the Academy and its committees have made great strides in achieving their objectives for this year. Many of the charges have been completed and many more will be completed by the time of the annual business meeting in Columbus.

As a result of a discussion at the 1999 Business Meeting in Toronto, a Strategic Action Committee was established and given the charge to study and make recommendations concerning the reorganization of responsibilities of the Academy's officers. The Committee agreed that the objectives of any changes would be to (1) make the Academy more open to participation by all members worldwide; (2) reduce the number of years a potential presidential candidate must spend in an officer position; and (3) realign the duties of the President so that he or she has more time to spend on strategic planning.

With those guidelines in mind, the Committee recommended changing the offices of First and Second Vice-President to reflect functional areas of significance to the Academy. Their recommendation is to change these offices to the Vice-President of Communications and the Vice-President of Conferences and Partnerships. The Vice-President of Communications will have oversight for all of the Academy's publications including the redesigned Web page. The Vice-President of Conferences and Partnerships will identify sites for the annual research conference three years in advance and will establish a site arrangements committee for the conference. This very important change will free the President of some of the operating responsibilities and give him or her more time to do long-term planning. Information concerning these proposed changes, which will be voted on at the

November business meeting, were mailed to members in July.

The Website Technology Committee recommended that the Academy's Web page be redesigned. A redesign is in progress and should be ready by early next year. The Academy would like to move the publication of its newsletter to the Web page, which would help to reduce mailing and printing costs significantly. The new Web page should also facilitate better communication with Academy members.

The Education Committee has collected resource materials that can be used to integrate accounting history topics into the accounting curriculum. The materials, which include articles, case studies, books, and course syllabi, have been posted on the Academy's Web page. Members who have additional materials that they would like to share should contact Ross Tondkar, chair of the committee. Ross and his committee have done an admirable job collecting and organizing the materials. Be sure to take a look at them on the Web page.

A survey intended to obtain members' input about the Academy's future direction was mailed in February. Although we received responses from only 15 percent of the members, the insights and views received have been helpful. The Officers and Trustees agreed at the August meeting that the Academy needs to develop long-term budgets to guide its actions in the future. They also recommended that dues be increased by \$5 per year for individual and institutional members and by \$2.50 per year for student members. To facilitate long-term planning, the Financial Advisory Committee was asked to work with the President-Elect, the Treasurer, the Vice-Presidents, and the Chair of the Committee to Review Academy Operations and Communications to develop a set of long-

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Flesher, Dale L. *The Distinguished Accountants Videotape Series* from "The Academy of Accounting Historians" and "The Ole Miss School of Accountancy", University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677. A videotape on Littleton being interviewed, in 1965, by C. A. Moyer and Vernon K. Zimmerman. Introductions were given by Charles Gaa. Videotape received on June 17, 1996.

Gilbert, Lorraine. (Working paper - 1997). "A. C. Littleton: The Personal Portrait of a Scholar." Presented at the AAA-NE in April, 1997 and at the Accounting Historians Conference in December, 1996. Latour, Bruno. 1987. *Science in Action*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Ma.

Gilbert, Lorraine, "Some Experiences and Observations in Conducting Qualitative Historical Research," *The Accounting Historians Notebook* (October, 1999): 10-11, 41-48.

Littleton, Robert Scott. Telephone interview with Lorraine L. Gilbert on April 18, 1995.

Mautz, Robert. Telephone interview with Lorraine L. Gilbert on March 19, 1995 and March 23, 1995.

Moonitz, Maurice. Telephone interview with Lorraine L. Gilbert on March 19, 1995.

Zimmerman, Vernon. Telephone Interview with Lorraine L. Gilbert on March 19, 1995 and March 20, 1995.



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term budgets and present them at the November meeting. The dues recommendation also will be voted on by the membership at the annual business meeting.

The Academy already has had one successful research conference this year. Alan Mayper, Barbara Merino, and Janet Trewin deserve accolades and many thanks for organizing the Accounting History Colloquium, which was held at Drexel University during the AAA national meeting in Philadelphia. The colloquium was well attended and considered to be a great success by those who participated. The Academy is very grateful to Drexel University for the use of its facilities and its financial support of the colloquium. The Academy intends to hold similar colloquia at AAA meetings in the future.

I hope that many of you will be able to

attend the Academy's annual research conference, which will be held on November 9-11, 2000, in Columbus, Ohio. The conference is being co-sponsored this year with the Accounting Hall of Fame and will help to celebrate the Hall of Fame's 50th Anniversary. Dan Jensen and the Program Committee have done a wonderful job organizing plenary and concurrent sessions that focus on the challenges and achievements in accounting during the 20th century. A copy of the program is included in this issue of the newsletter.

I hope to see many of you in November and/or hear from you concerning the future direction of the Academy.

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