

Letters

Comments on the AES

Sir:

In a recent letter to the Editor, Mr. Frank E. Sherry has suggested the formation of some sort of an Audio Engineering Society. I wish to enter a strong dissent to this proposal, as I believe it will not further the advancement of this field.

The principal reason for this view may be seen from a consideration of the large number of technical groups now extant, each for a narrow field. Nevertheless, this has resulted in duplication of effort, competition for speakers and papers, and a multiplicity of meetings which put a considerable drain on the time of the practicing engineer who must overlook no new developments. A partial solution has been the formation of Technical Societies Councils, as in Chicago and other cities, with a monthly list of meetings made available. I feel that our efforts must be directed toward consolidation and centralization rather than division of energies. A unified group can easily foster sub-groups for specific purposes, and yet retain the advantages of a parent-body which is able, by virtue of its prestige and size, to present with great effectiveness the viewpoint of its members to other groups, be they engineering, civic, or legislative.

Since audio engineering has become a large enough field to merit representation, I wish to propose that those interested consider the Acoustical Society of America. This group is not purely scientific and academic, but has a diversified membership which includes audio engineers, musicians, broadcast engineers, and sound technicians as well as professors (who are in the minority). The Society has recently broadened its membership requirements to include all those interested in acoustics, with more classes of membership; moreover, it has provided for the establishment of regional sections whose primary interest is simply to be the advancement of acoustics. I wish to urge that those interested in audio engineering consider affiliation with the national Society as a valuable means of avoiding adding to the present profusion of specialized groups and at the same time retaining the advantages of national representation. Of course, the particular program undertaken by any such regional group will depend on the desires of its members, the national Society merely offering direction and advice with rather loose control.

In closing, it may be mentioned that a Chicago Section of the Acoustical Society of America is in the process of formation.

Vincent Salmon, Physicist
6220 So. Moody Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

Sir:

I want to thank you for aiding in the formation of an Audio Engineering Society.

Because of a letter which was written by Frank E. Sherry, Jr. of Victoria, Texas, and appearing in your December issue, I was put in touch with C. J. LeBel and Norman Pickering, both of New York City, and former members of the Society. It is with a deep satisfaction to learn that at last something will be done about nationally recognizing the Audio Engineer in his own right. I still have on hand Issue No. 1 of the original *Sound* magazine issued prior to the war—July, 1941, to be exact.

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I am looking forward to the first meeting of the Society with as much hope and anticipation as a kid does the night before Christmas. Thank you again for any aid you might give the group in its initial phases. Thank you also, tho in advance, for the next 12 issues, which I know will be just as jam-packed with information as the last issues.

Jack Hartley
88 Diamond Bridge Ave.,
Hawthorne, N. J.

Dear Editor:

In the December 1947 issue, Mr. F. E. Sherry, Jr., raises the question as to whether the time has come for the audio engineer to form an association of his own. I think not.

It is true that the existing national organizations have not, to date, recognized the existence of audio engineers nor have they given them a voice, as a group, in the affairs of their societies. However, insofar as the Institute of Radio Engineers is concerned, considerable progress has been made towards correcting this situation. For example, as announced in some detail in the January 1948 issue of the *Proc. I. R. E.*, a Committee on Professional Groups has been formed (pg. 105) with the view towards the establishment of groups "within the Institute membership to promote meetings in specialized fields" (pg. 106). In addition other group activities, such as promoting papers in their field, are contemplated. One of the groups specifically mentioned is "audio."

Of equal importance is the establishment by the I. R. E. of an Audio and Video Technical Committee. Thus, for the first time in the history of the Institute, these fields are being recognized in their own right and not as an adjunct of another branch of the science.

From an industry viewpoint, audio engineering is also beginning to receive the recognition that is its due. For example, the Radio Manufacturers Association has several active committees on audio facilities covering broadcasting, sound reinforcement and home receiver applications. Also, the American Standards Association has committees concerned with various phases of standardization work in the audio field.

It seems to me that the audio and video engineer can best further progress in his chosen field by taking an active and constructive part in the affairs of existing organizations. I cannot see the need, at this time, of an association of audio engineers, any more than I believe there should be an Institute of Sonar Engineers, or of Radar Engineers, or Frequency Allocation Engineers, to name but a few.

Howard A. Chinn
Chief Audio Engineer
Columbia Broadcasting System
New York City

Sir:

Through AUDIO ENGINEERING I have learned of activities in New York to bring together those who are interested mainly in the audio field. Mr. C. J. LeBel has suggested that it might be possible to determine the extent of interest along these lines in the Philadelphia area, if a letter similar to his were published in AUDIO ENGINEERING.

I will be glad to act as a clearing house to receive the names of those in the Philadelphia Area who would care to look into the matter if they will send a post

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card to me at the address below. Information of any activities will be sent to all sending in their name, address and field of audio engineering.

William P. West
522 Arbutus St.,
Philadelphia 19, Pa.

From the Audio Engineering Society

We have been flooded with mail from all over the country, and it appears certain that local sections will be formed in a number of cities. In order to help audio engineers get together, we would be happy to act as a clearing house for such operations.

In response to interest already shown, we especially solicit response from the following large centers:

Boston
Chicago
Cleveland
Dallas
Denver
Detroit
Indianapolis
Pittsburgh
San Antonio
San Francisco
Washington, D. C.

When writing, please send the following information: Name, mailing address, company, title or nature of work.

Letters should be addressed to the Acting Secretary, thus:

Norman G. Pickering
Acting Secretary
Audio Engineering Society,
Oceanside, N. Y.