

# Obituaries

## Reinhard O. Sahr (1938–2021)

Two prominent AES members in Europe died earlier this year, close to the date of the 50th Anniversary of the first AES European convention held in 1971. They were Reinhard O. Sahr and Herman A. O. Wilms. They collaborated on many conventions together and became good friends.

### Reinhard O. Sahr

passed away on January 11, 2021, after suffering a long debilitating illness. Born in June 1938 in Marienwerder (today Kwidzyn, Poland), Reinhard's early childhood years were spent moving from place to place. He went to Hirschberg, then Barberhäuser in the Krkonoše Mountains, escaping by train to Worbis, Germany, and escaping again via Duderstadt to Bad Godesberg where he went to school. Again, he had to move to Gummersbach where he continued his schooling. From 1958 to 1967 he studied in Munich, where he received his Diploma.



In 1967 he started his long and varied working life at WIGO in Burlafingen, Neu-Ulm, then bsh Büttner Schilde Haas in Bad Hersfeld followed by Landis & Gyr, firstly in Zug, Switzerland, and then in Berlin. From 1975 he worked for ITT Regelungstechnik in Essen-Überruhr, Germany. He was then at Sennheiser from 1981–1991, where he was Technical Director. At the same time he was also Managing Director of Sennheiser Ireland, after setting up the headphone factory there, and Managing Director of Fa. Georg Neumann in Berlin. From 1992–1996 he was Chief Technical Officer at RFT in Staßfurt.

During his working career, Reinhard gave freely of his spare time in supporting the AES in Europe and the VDT in Germany. He was involved with many European Convention committees and was convention chairman in Hamburg in 1985 and 1989 and in Berlin in 1993 and 2004. He also ran the AES North German section for many years. In parallel with his AES activities, he also helped the VDT, which is the German Sound Engineering Association most known as the organizer of the Tonmeistertagungen held every other year. He was chairman in Hannover (2002) and Leipzig (2004) and from 2000–2005 he

was also Managing Director of VDT Bildungswerk, the parent company.

Although audio engineering was the mainstay of his working and volunteering life, his leisure time was taken up by culture, especially music. He played the violin and often gave musical evenings in his home with others, explaining the works to the audience.

My association with Reinhard started in 1988 while planning for the 1989 Hamburg convention. I felt that he was a person one could rely on and I admired him for having a strong will to get things done. He was always full of new and good ideas and these benefitted the AES conventions he was part of. He wanted to involve the city where the convention was held and usually would persuade the Mayor, or other dignitary, to open the convention. In 1989 he, along with Donald Plunkett, the then Executive Director, came up with a plan to show unity between East and West Germany by choosing a Papers Chairman (Gerhard Steinke) from East Berlin. As this was several months before the wall came down, there were some obstacles to overcome, but it worked and was applauded.

After the hard work of the convention planning meetings, Reinhard was always enjoyable company to relax with. He had a good sense of humour, one could almost say impish at times. One memorable example was when he invited a belly dancer to perform at the 1993 Berlin convention President's reception. Given some of the staid attendees at the event (nearly 30 years ago), it created quite a stir.

In 1999, Reinhard contracted a malignant tumour, which he initially overcame with great energy and confidence. During his time with AES and VDT most people were completely unaware of his illness, but unfortunately the consequences stayed with him for the rest of his life.

Reinhard was presented with four Board of Governors awards, one for each of the conventions that he chaired and the Fellowship award in 1994. Although his illness kept him from attending AES conventions in the latter years of his life, he will be remembered by those who had met him in earlier years and the AES owes him a big debt of gratitude. He is survived by his wife Inger and his three sons Stefan, Christian, and Andreas. I would like to

thank Christian for providing information to help write this obituary.