



As I write this editorial, just a few weeks after the Salt Lake City meeting, I am starting to relax. It was an interesting but very busy meeting for me. Now, as I look forward to my term as

Acoustical Society of America (ASA) President, I suspect (as previous presidents have warned me) that I will have an equally busy, and daunting, year. The ASA is in a period of change, with many exciting initiatives underway. I will do what I can to ensure that things go smoothly.

The ASA is a wonderfully broad organization drawing members from many different professions and covering many different areas of acoustics. My research career spans several of the technical areas. I have been a member of the Technical Committees (TCs) on Psychological and Physiological Acoustics, Physical Acoustics, and Noise; some of my projects over the years have been more in the engineering or architectural areas. In the past years, when I could attend technical sessions regularly, I took advantage of the breadth of the ASA and often sat in on talks outside my areas of expertise. I encourage all members, particularly those new to the ASA, to do the same.

Many of the initiatives being planned in the ASA have a strong international component. I believe that I have an appropriate outlook for these initiatives. For a start, I am Canadian and have a relationship with the Canadian Acoustical Association going back several decades. I am very much involved with the International Commission for Acoustics (ICA), having served in this organization for the last nine years (the last three as its Secretary General). This activity brings me into contact with national acoustical societies worldwide.

By the way, I am not the first ASA President to come from Canada. I was preceded by at least three others (Edgar Shaw, Tony Embleton, and Gilles Daigle); interestingly, all four of us came from the same acoustics group at the National Research Council of Canada.

One of my priorities as ASA President will be the continued implementation of the recommendations from the ASA Strategic Plan. So much effort from so many people went into this visioning exercise that I am not about to let the recommendations gather dust on a shelf. Our previous president, Christy Holland, had the same view. She created task

forces to address the four key goals and ensured that budgets were in place to support their actions. Already, significant success stories are coming out of the Strategic Plan. I am highlighting some of these below; for more details, though, you should visit the Web site <http://acousticalsociety.org/SLP>.

Task Force 1 was set up to address Goal 1, “Awareness of Acoustics,” with the priority objective of expanding the promotion of ASA activities and resources through emerging media and online content. Several successes have already been achieved. (1) A logo design contest was held to generate a logo that would match the expanded role of Explore Sound, the ASA’s outreach Web site. A total of 53 unique entries were received from designers worldwide, some ASA members and some not. The final voting was open to all ASA members, and ballots from 800 members were received in the online poll. Visit <http://exploresound.org/winners/> to view the winning designs. (2) Seed funding of 5,000 Euros was recommended to, and subsequently approved by, the Executive Council for the ICA’s initiative to have the year 2019 proclaimed the International Year of Sound. (3) An action group assisted in reviewing an outreach video produced by the ASA Public Relations Committee.

Goal 2, “Membership Engagement and Diversity,” has the priority objectives of increasing remote connectivity to meetings and expanding promotion and participation of early career members. Task Force 2 has achieved great progress on both fronts. In Jacksonville, 7 special sessions and 1 TC meeting were streamed live; in Salt Lake City, 19 special sessions, 2 TC meetings, and 1 committee meeting were streamed live. Reception has generally been very positive. Live streaming is now being planned for the Honolulu meeting. In Salt Lake City, straddling Friday and Saturday, a workshop was held to encourage early career acousticians, and this will be described in detail in the next (winter) issue of *Acoustics Today*. This popular event, tagged the Early-Career Acousticians Retreat (EAR 2016), had 45 attendees on-site (and more online) to learn about the ASA and participate in networking and leadership sessions. On talking with several attendees partway through, I was impressed by their enthusiasm.

Goal 3, “Dissemination of Information and Knowledge,” has the priority objective of streamlining and upgrading author,

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Acoustical Society of America Committee Organizational Chart

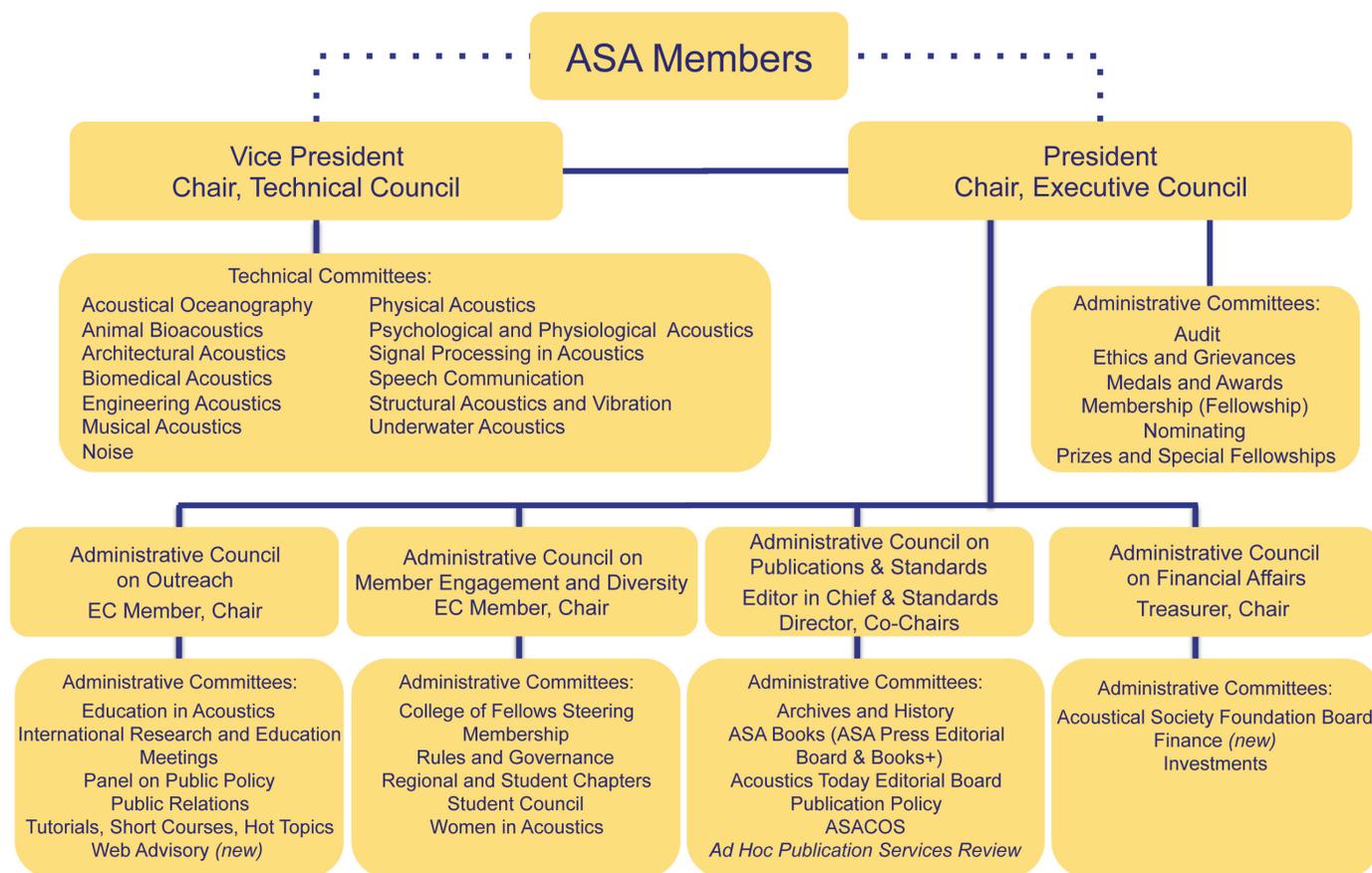


Figure 1. Organizational chart of the committee structure of the Acoustical Society of America.

From the President

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reader, editor, and reviewer experience in all publications processes. This objective is not new and was already a priority for Editor in Chief Jim Lynch but having the support of Task Force 3 has sharpened and defined the focus of efforts. The time to first decision has already been reduced from 75 days to 57 days, and the time between acceptance and publication has been reduced from 45 days to 30 days. Further improvements are in the works and will be accelerated with the hiring of our new Managing Editor Liz Bury. The keyword search list is now current and complete. Other actions underway include the promotion of our publications, a thesaurus project, and the updating of templates (LaTeX and Word) for *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America (JASA)*, *Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics (POMA)*, and *JASA-Express Letters (JASA-EL)*.

Task Force 4 was set up to address Goal 4, “Financial Stewardship,” with the priority objective of developing and implementing a new business model, including for the ASA Founda-

tion Fund. Significant progress has been made. The task force has now defined the charge of the new ASA Finance Committee to be responsible for making recommendations to the Executive Council on long-term (greater than one fiscal year) financial decisions. Anthony Atchley has agreed to chair this committee.

Having crowed about the successes arising from the Strategic Plan, I think it is important to step back and realize that there are hundreds of volunteers working on many existing administrative and technical committees. The Public Relations Committee and the Education in Acoustics Committee are two examples that are very active and visible to ASA members. Other committees, such as Investments, work hard in the background. The creation of the task forces was not meant to displace these existing committees. The Strategic Plan has defined the direction for the ASA over the next 5 or 10 years. All committees are working with this direction in mind. The task forces and the committees can support and augment each other's efforts. Indeed, each task force was populated with members from the relevant ASA committees to ensure that the lines of communication were in place.

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From the President

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To finish up, I would like to tell you about a change in administrative structure for the ASA (**Figure 1**). Several years ago, two administrative councils, Internal Affairs and External Affairs, were put in place to streamline the reporting of committees to the Executive Council. Committees would report to one or the other of these councils; the chairs of these councils, each a member of Executive Council, would consolidate the reports and present a concise summary to Executive Council. This arrangement liberated time in the crowded Executive Council agenda. In Jacksonville, the Executive Council approved the addition of a third council, the Administrative Council on Publications and Standards, to consolidate the reporting of committees associated with ASA publishing and standards (e.g., Publication Policy and ASACOS, respectively). In Salt Lake City, this was taken one step further, adding a fourth council, the Administrative Council on Finances, to consolidate the reporting of committees associated with ASA finances (Acoustical Society Foundation Board, Investments, and the new Finance Committee). The load on the original two administrative councils has been reduced, and they have been renamed Outreach and Member Engagement and Diversity. The observant reader will note that these four councils match up with the four goals of the Strategic Plan. We now have administrative councils on Outreach, on Member Engagement and Diversity, on Publications and Standards, and on Financial Affairs. The organizational chart (**Figure 1**) shows the committee structure of the ASA.

Become a Member of the Acoustical Society of America

The Acoustical Society of America (ASA) invites individuals with a strong interest in **any aspect of acoustics** including (but not limited to) physical, engineering, oceanographic, biological, psychological, structural, and architectural, to apply for membership. This very broad diversity of interests, along with the opportunities provided for the exchange of knowledge and points of view, has become one

of the Society's unique and strongest assets. From its beginning in 1929, ASA has sought to serve the widespread interests of its members and the acoustics community in all branches of acoustics, both theoretical and applied. ASA publishes **the premier journal in the field** and annually holds two exciting meetings that bring together colleagues from around the world.



Visit the <http://acousticalsociety.org/> to learn more about the Society and membership.