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# Fascinating Time for Antennas and Propagation Society

Welcome to the 75th anniversary year of the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society (AP-S)! I am truly honored and humbled to address you as the president of this amazing organization. Like many of you, I consider AP-S as my “home society” and my “professional family.” For decades, since I was a graduate student and young professor, all of my research, scholarship, and professional endeavors have been centered at the AP-S, and its technical topics, journals, conferences, committees, and activities. For me personally, this is a privilege and opportunity of a lifetime, the highest and most impactful professional position I could ever achieve, and I am deeply grateful to all of you for entrusting me with this responsibility.

First and foremost, I consider this as an *opportunity*, that is, an opportunity to *serve* the AP-S membership and AP community and profession at large to the best of my ability, taking full advantage of the resources and potential that the AP-S and IEEE can offer. Our Society is composed of thousands of fabulous individuals, and many are devoted AP-S volunteers. Here, as a society, we are joining forces, energies, abilities, and spirits to be able to accomplish much more than we can as individuals. As AP-S president, I will do my best to coordinate our joint efforts and enthusiasm so that our most precious and powerful resource, our vol-

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unteer time, makes the biggest *impact* to the benefit of all.

At the time of writing this message, I am serving the Society as president elect, whose principal goal, in addition to assisting the president and working within the Society leadership team, is to get ready and prepare the “agenda” for the presidential term. Hence, I have done a great deal of learning, listening, exploring, and thinking about the state of the Society and some aspects of our work that could be further improved, strengthened, and prioritized. Also, I have conducted extensive and very fruitful discussions with AP-S officers, Administrative Committee (AdCom) members, standing committee chairs, past presidents, and a large number of other AP-S volunteers and members. Additionally, I have talked to many presidents and leaders of other IEEE societies to learn about their experiences.

The state of our Society is truly *outstanding*. Our approaches and activities are often very innovative, and our accomplishments and impacts are highly regarded and acknowledged both by our members and by our sister societies and organizations, as well as the IEEE

and the engineering/scientific community at large. I am extremely excited and eager to lead the AP-S to further successes by introducing, enhancing, or reaffirming certain activities and goals, which I would like to briefly outline for you. Most of these suggestions have been shared with the AP-S colleagues mentioned above and are under ongoing discussions. I categorize them in three major thrusts, as follows:

- Society operation and governance
  - Enhance coordination and synergy between various AP-S standing committees (we have 24 standing committees).
  - Take advantage of similar goals and overlaps between committees.
  - Pursue strategic long-range recruitment and grooming of candidates for new AdCom members and president elect.
  - Make nomination, election, and appointment processes more transparent and engaging, where possible.
  - Involve more members at different career stages in the Society governance and operation.
  - Expand the involvement of the Society past presidents in planning and strategizing.
  - Increase AP-S participation within IEEE leadership positions to benefit both the IEEE and AP-S.

- Further building and establishing of “AP-S Office” with dedicated professional staff personnel.
  - Discuss and update the Society constitution, bylaws, and operating manual.
- Membership and geographic activities
- Further increase worldwide IEEE and AP-S membership as rapidly as possible.
  - Enhance outreach to IEEE regions or parts of regions that are historically and currently under-represented in AP-S activities.
  - Proactively recruit new students into the field, and into the AP-S, and enhance their active involvement.
  - Continue efforts to improve gender, status-based, and geographic diversity of the AP-S participation in everything we do.
  - Make being or becoming an AP-S member or student member even more beneficial and rewarding.
  - Further expand scholarships, research and travel grants, and educational and professional development opportunities for students and all members.
  - Make the above opportunities easier to understand and distinguish between and more straightforward to pursue.
  - Further emphasize a goal-oriented approach, with tangible goals and outcomes of investments.
  - Discuss ways of assessing results and measuring success or impact of initiatives.
- Technical activities and directions
- Restructure two current AP-S standing committees into a new Technical Directions Committee (TDC).
  - The TDC will organize a number of technical committees (TCs), within the TDC, for all main areas that we cover.
  - New TCs should reflect the current status of our technical activities and define our desires and goals for the future.
  - Enhance industry involvement within all AP-S activities, to com-

plement our academic/university strengths.

- Boldly grow AP-S publications and conferences, acknowledging a new information era and a globally changing world.
- Reinforce our position as stewards of electromagnetics (EM) research, development, and education.
- Through the TDC and TCs, push the frontiers of AP/EM toward cutting-edge cross-disciplinary theories, technologies, and applications.
- Further advance existing activities and design and implement new initiatives to push for AP and EM education and training at all levels.
- Translate excellent intersociety relationships within the IEEE and beyond into practical avenues for AP-S membership growth and technical and professional advancements.
- Work more actively and systematically on recruiting and grooming a highly qualified and diverse pool of IEEE Fellow candidates from the AP-S.
- Pursue similar activities regarding nominations for AP-S Field and Paper Awards.

I sincerely hope that these proposed discussion and action items *resonate* well with your own expectations and aspirations as AP-S members and friends. I am well aware that some of them will not be fully addressed this year, and I hope that they will be carried over for consideration by succeeding presidents.

This year is a special celebratory year for the AP-S. We are celebrating the 75th anniversary—Diamond Jubilee—of AP-S, as it was founded in 1949. Our plan is to mark and celebrate



**FIGURE 1.** Celebratory extended AP-S logo for the 75th anniversary of the Society.

this extraordinary milestone appropriately: elegantly, in a technical and professional fashion, as everything else we do. We are one of the three oldest IEEE societies (or professional groups, as the societies were called then), a really astonishing fact, of which we are very proud. Our first official name was the IRE Professional Group on Antennas and Propagation. Remarkably, we were founded with the same name (AP) as during the following 75 years and now. We are the IEEE’s third society, and in the nomenclature of all IEEE societies, our official IEEE designation is *AP-03*. The first was the IRE Professional Group on Audio, founded in 1948, which is now the IEEE Signal Processing Society (SP-01).

The theme of the celebration is “Celebrating 75 Years of the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society, Looking Forward to the Next 75 Years,” signifying our achievements and activities within 75 years, both technical and professional, in a celebratory spirit, but also addressing an outlook for the *future* of the Society. I believe a celebration like this is good for our members, for their technical and professional advancement, for morale and belonging to the Society, for our outreach to new members, and for our promotion among other organizations that we care about.

The main anniversary events will take place at our flagship conference, IEEE AP-S/URSI 2024, in Florence, Italy, on 17–18 July 2024, with a 75 Years Plenary Session, Intersociety Collaboration Panel, IEEE AP-S 75 Years Celebratory Gala, and more. We are preparing a special series of the *IEEE Antennas and Propagation Magazine* devoted to this jubilee, with articles describing our cornerstone technical and professional accomplishments and activities over 75 years, in a celebratory spirit but also in an archival fashion, with the potential to be referenced and used in the future. We have created an extended version of the newly selected (by AP-S membership) AP-S logo for the occasion of the 75 years celebration of our Society this year, shown in Figure 1.

Finally, and most importantly, I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to my predecessor at the helm of the Society, Prof. Stefano Maci, for his superb leadership, exemplary contributions and results, and congenial collaboration and friendship. Whole-hearted congratulations to Prof. Christophe Fumeaux, AP-S president elect; I greatly appreciate our fantastic discussions and his support in facilitating our goals. Special thanks to current, outgoing, and newly elected AdCom members, society officers, past presidents, chairs, and members of our standing and ad hoc committees, editors-in-chief of our journals, editorial board members and paper reviewers, chairs and

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organizing committees of our conferences, technical program committees, distinguished lecturers, and all other AP-S volunteers, members, and friends (future members, I hope). These wonderful people—*you*—are what the AP-S is all about and I feel incredibly

honored and privileged to be able to serve with you as we steer the AP-S boat to its further successes and accomplishments, through calm and rough seas alike.

It is a fascinating time to be an antennas and propagation researcher, practitioner, educator, or student. It is even more fascinating, during a very special celebratory year, to be an AP-S member. And if you currently are not one, please consider joining us! We would love to have you on board.

Until next time, with very best wishes,

*Branislav*



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