MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Association of Midwestern College Biology Teachers is alive and well as is evidenced by the excellent annual meeting held September 27th and 28th at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. The Association owes a debt of gratitude to Ingemar Larson, for local arrangements, to Harold Wilkinson, program chairperson, to Ray Reed, our past president, and to the Steering Committee members. The outstanding efforts of these planners provided the guidance that resulted in the smooth operation of the annual meeting.

The Association's stated objectives - 1) to further the teaching of the biological sciences at the college and other levels of educational experience, 2) to bring to light common problems involving biological curricula at the college level and by the free interchange of ideas, 3) to endeavor to resolve these problems, 4) to encourage active participation in biological research by teachers and students in the belief that such participation is an invaluable adjunct to effective teaching and 5) to create a voice which will be effective in bringing the collective views of the teachers of the biological sciences to the attention of college and civil government administrations - were confronted at Augustana as we heard Dr. Joseph R. Larsen, Dean of the College of Rehabilitation, University of Illinois, state the case for the importance of laboratory experiences in biological education. We should heed his suggestions to increase, not decrease, hands on laboratory experiences in our institutions, to continue to seek experiments that work, to bring current research into the method as well as the instrumentation in the biological laboratory and to make ourselves aware of the special needs of the disabled student and to adapt our laboratory environment accordingly.

Your Steering Committee is at work again planning for the next annual meeting to be held at Sangamon State University at Springfield, Illinois, on September 26th and 27th, 1986. The Steering Committee met at the host institution on November 23rd to assess the local arrangements being prepared by Ann Larson and to help Malcolm Levin formulate the program. Tentatively, Malcolm is formulating plans around the theme "Roles of Biologists in Public Policy Issues" with an opening panel presentation on Friday followed by concurrent sessions on the various issues. There will be the usual sharing of ideas on "labs that work", teaching techniques and video materials.

As these plans develop share your ideas with us. If we are to continue to meet the objective of AMCBI, it is imperative that each of us share the responsibilities. Why not consider making a presentation at Sangamon State or consider submitting an article to the Midwest Bioscene. I'm sure many of us would like to have information concerning the discussions we are unable to attend either because we are unable to attend the meeting or because of the concurrent nature of the presentations. Bill Doemel, our editor, Wabash College, would welcome the material. Bill and the Bioscene Editorial Board deserve our special thanks for helping to keep us in touch between annual meetings through the pages of this publication. (Bioscene, c/o W. Doemel, Wabash College, Crawfordsville, IN 47933.)

Our membership includes representation from fifteen states as we prepare for the Thirtieth Annual Meeting. It includes members from universities, colleges and community colleges as well as sustaining members from commercial firms. Why not recruit a colleague from your institution or a neighboring institution. Brochures about AMCBI are available through Ed Kos, our Executive Secretary, at Rockhurst College, Kansas City, Missouri 64110.
I am hoping that this academic year will see more people involved in our organization. We can continue to be a voice in the issues of Biological science, to foster better public understanding of science in general and to share our successful teaching techniques by such involvement.

Ted C. Michaud, President, AMCBT

A FINAL NOTE TO PARTICIPANTS OF THE 1985 AMCBT MEETINGS

As past program chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to make a final report to the members of this organization.

This meeting was attended totally or in part by over 80 persons. Many of these expressed their appreciation for the content and organization of the meeting. Judging from these comments I would say that those of you who were not in attendance missed out on some highly enlightening and rewarding information presented by the 41 participants. There were 15 seminars presented on subjects ranging from Ethics to Learning in the Soviet Union. The average attendance of these sessions was 11. There were six workshop/demonstrations and eight poster presentations which appeared to have been well attended. Five discipline sessions on Saturday morning allowed members to discuss and resolve some of the issues facing them in their particular fields of interest and four sustaining members set up exhibits that attracted many visitors. Finally, our two guest speakers presented stimulating talks on Laboratory Education and The Preservation of Blackhawk State Park.

I am sincerely grateful for the excellent work done by all of these participants and for all the wonderful comments I received in their behalf. I would be remiss, however, if I didn't acknowledge the work done by a few others who were hidden in the background. To the following people I give special thanks:

Ingemar Larsen
John Becker
Jerry Foote
Ingemar Larsen & Ed Kos
Bill Doemel
State Membership Chairman
Ray Reed & Neil Baird

Facilities Chairman and Coordinator
Film Festival
Poster Sessions Coordinator
Exhibit and Sustaining Member Recruitment
Programs and Publications
New Member Recruitment
Support and Encouragement

Thank you all for a very rewarding and fulfilling experience.

Honorary Life Membership is occasionally awarded by AMCBT to members who have worked for the organization over an extended period and who have performed exemplary service. If you would like to nominate a deserving member please include a thumbnail history and a paragraph describing your reasons for nominating. The nomination may be sent to President Ted C. Michaud, Biology Department, Carroll College, Waukesha, WI 53186, or to Jack Bennett, Biology Department, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115.