Inasmuch as this is the first issue of the New Year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very productive and satisfying new year. With this issue, I would also like to welcome John Jungck as the new editor of Bioscene. John has been a member for many years (since 1967), presenter of many computer programs at Annual Meetings, and also a former editor of The American Biology Teacher. I'm sure I speak for all of the membership when I say, "Welcome to Bioscene, John."

Still on Bioscene, but on a different tack, I would like to express my, and I'm sure all of the membership's, deepest thanks to Bill Doemel, the outgoing editor. All of us owe Bill a great deal for the hard work he did in changing the format of Bioscene as well as greatly improving its content. Many thanks, Bill.

Those of you who would like to see your names in print, as well as having your writings published, send them on to John Jungck (Dept. of Biology, Beloit College, Beloit, WI 53511). He will be more than happy to work with you on getting your gems into Bioscene.

The Steering Committee met the weekend of December 12th to go over any business deemed necessary for AMCBT, as well as to plan for the 1988 Annual Meeting. Having attended numerous of these meetings, I feel that this one was quite productive. Several items are noteworthy at this time, and I will go into them in a little more detail.

Bill Andresen, our President, did a limited survey of some members and non-members regarding their perceptions of AMCBT, which he presented at this meeting. One result was something that many of us have known for some time, namely our organization is not as well known as we would like. Bill is going to develop a marketing strategy to put us before more of our colleagues and increase our membership. This will result in some changes with regards to our state membership chairs which are not completely worked out. We will be in touch with these individuals in the near future.

Another result which seemed to jump out of the responses was the need for us as a group to carry on year-round what we do best at the Annual Meeting, namely act as resources for one another. Consequently we are going to try to set up a Resource Bureau, and for this we need your assistance. I know that we are all professionals, and that we are experts in one or more areas of biology, but how willing are we to share this expertise with others? Can we put your name down, at least at first in the computer and then as quickly as possible in some type of brochure, to help someone who has a problem with a topic, a course, a piece of equipment, computer software, etc., in short almost anything that would relate to the teaching of biology, even including some of the administrative skills which many of you have acquired in flying departments by the seat of your pants? These are the kinds of things that get talked over and talked about between sessions at the Annual Meeting and which can make such a difference for some of us in our own endeavors.
To start this, when I send you your annual dues notice at the first of the year, I will have some questions for you to answer on the form which you are to return to me. The form will also include a request for some phone numbers, both home and office. Please note, these numbers are to be used only by this office and will not be released to anyone (unless you have agreed to be a resource person). We do not give your telephone numbers to anyone. I hope that you will all seriously consider participating in this venture.

With respect to the Annual Meeting, at this point the program is in the process of being planned. The meeting will be held from Thursday the 22nd of September through Saturday the 24th of September at Beloit College, Beloit, WI. If you would like to participate in any way yourself, or if you have a name to suggest, or some format suggestion to make, please relay this information to Cathy D. Hunt, Department of Biology, Henderson Community College, Henderson, KY 42420, the program chair.

One note about an innovation in the meeting introduced at the Springfield, MO meeting, namely the morning breakfasts included in the registration charge. Comment from those attending was very positive and encouraged the continuation of this practice, so look for it again next fall.

In looking forward to the next meeting please remember that we will again be electing officers, a president-elect, two steering committee members, and a secretary. If you are interested in standing for election to any of these offices, or have in mind the name of someone you feel you would like to see in any office, please send your or their name to the chair of the nominating committee, Ann Larson, Department of Biology, Sangamon State University, Springfield, IL 62794-9243.

While you’re in the nominating mood, you might consider nominations for Honorary Life Membership. AMCBT has honored some of its members with this designation and is willing to do so again, although there is nothing in our procedure or constitution which says we must do so. It is not an automatic award for lengthy service, but rather an award for significant contributions to AMCBT and to the teaching of biology—the critical part of our name. If you wish to nominate someone for this award, please contact Joseph Kapler, Department of Biology, Loras College, Dubuque, IA 52004-0178, chair of the Honorary Life Committee, for further information about this procedure.

At this point, having violated a basic rule of mine regarding overlong communications, I am going to stop. Again, I would like to wish all of you all the best for 1988.

Edward S. Kos
Executive Secretary