A WORD FROM OUR PAST PRESIDENT - AUSTIN BROOKS

Before reflecting upon the present status of our Association as I see it, I would like to take this opportunity to formally and publicly thank all of you for the fine support that you have given to me during my term as your President. Special thanks are in order to Bill Doemel, Program Chairman for the Carroll College meetings and to Ted Michaud, Local Arrangements Chairman at Carroll. Dick Wilson of Rockhurst also must be given accolades for the fine job he has done standing in for our Executive Secretary, Ed Kos, during the latter's Fulbright year. Of course I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the support of the dedicated group of people that served on the Steering Committee over the past year.

Since my first AMCBT meeting at Hamline in 1966, I have missed only three annual meetings— one of these because I was on sabbatical leave in Germany. What is it that makes me sacrifice the better part of an October weekend, which more often than not is our Homecoming, and at the same time spend often as long as 20 hours trapped in an automobile? I can answer this question without hesitation and with a single word—FRIENDSHIPS. Although I found the program at every AMCBT meeting to be interesting, it is the people that draws me back year after year. Those informal conversations where new ideas surface and old problems are readdressed in creative ways is what AMCBT is to me. In short AMCBT is a diverse group of concerned teachers that face similar problems.

To preserve this great diversity, we should have a large number of members. The relationship is a simple one. More members make for a greater variety of presentations at our meetings. More members produce more articles for the Midwest BioScene. And finally more members generate a larger treasury. In the past few years, perhaps because of the economy, our membership roles have decreased. Since the founding of the AMCBT 25 years ago, the membership has been as high as 340. By comparison we currently have 265 on our present member roster, but only 125 attended the Carroll College meetings last October and less than 2/3 of that number have paid their current dues.

Clearly our greatest priority should be to increase our membership.

Your new President, Norm Jensen, plans to reactivate the state membership chairperson plan and thanks to the generosity of our Honorary Life Members a new AMCBT membership brochure is being prepared. These are both significant steps, but ultimately it is up to you and me to attract new members. If each of us would bring only one extra colleague to the annual meeting we could increase our membership dramatically. To maintain AMCBT diversity and viability, make 1982 the year you bring in a new member. If each of us meets this challenge, AMCBT will flourish and continue to provide us with an outlet for innovative ideas in teaching.

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