BOARD ROOM

M Technology Alive and Well in '96

by John F. Covin

For those of you who attended MTA's 1996 Annual Conference, I trust that you found the meeting meaningful. For me, seeing M Technology "at home" with other mainstream technologies represents another milestone in the Technology's journey from an obscure, niche existence to broader acceptance and respect among today's IS professionals. I found it energizing to see M community professionals expounding on the benefits of proven examples of scalable, client/server, M-based applications performing at "eyebrow-raising" rates.

To all who were in attendance, it was apparent that M Technology is alive, vibrant, and as relevant as any other technology on exhibit at Database & Client/Server World.

As announced at the Association Meeting (see the minutes on page 27 of this issue), the Board of Directors has decided that MTA will alter the format of our conference in 1997. While the extent or nature of the changes is not yet known, MTA's primary objective is to design a financially sound conference that attracts more members.

Based on informal but extensive feedback from participants at this year's conference, **the Board is negotiating with DCI to hold our 1997 Conference in conjunction with Database & Client/Server World again, next May.** *This is contingent upon two primary factors that must be satisfied:*

● Financial arrangements that allow MTA to operate within a budget supported by our current level of attendance.

● Feedback from 1996 Conference attendees and several hundred additional M professionals indicating that they will attend next year.

MTA is committed to constructing an Annual Conference that you find informative and educational and that enables you to meet your professional objectives. With your input, we look forward to presenting the type of conference that you and others will feel compelled to attend next year.

John Covin was re-elected this spring to his third term as chair of MTA's Board of Directors. He is vice president and CIO of Corning Pharmaceutical Services in Princeton, New Jersey.