Hail! and Farewell?

by Kate M. Schell

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Welcome to the MTA Strategies & Solutions meeting. I hope that you learn a lot, that you meet interesting people, and that you enjoy the city of San Diego. There are a lot of interesting topics on the program, and San Diego certainly offers wonderful possibilities for both recreational and educational outings.

As we close out the century, it is possible that we will also be closing out the activities of the MTA. A vote on the dissolution of the organization is on the agenda for the business meeting. Personally, I hope that the members of the MTA will find a way to keep the organization in place, perhaps as a volunteer-based group.

Whether the MTA self-destructs or re-organizes, this issue may be the final issue of *M Computing*. This journal is one of the principal benefits of membership in the MTA. Absent a sponsoring organization and the staff that works for the organization, the effort of publication would become prohibitive. I had intended to give up the editorship of *M Computing* in March of 2000. Solicitation of articles, distribution of materials for review, and coordination of final publication of articles has been approximately a half-time job; I'm due for a break.

There has been some discussion of transforming *M Computing* into a web-based publication. You can see a sample issue on the MTA web site: http://www.mtechnology.org. If there is a volunteer or volunteers who want to work on the publication, please let me know, or contact a member of the MTA board to let them know of your interest.

In the meanwhile, I'd like to thank the following people for their efforts on behalf of M Computing during my tenure as Executive Editor:

Authors don't receive compensation for writing. The following folks have produced articles, book reviews, or sidebars: George James, Jon Diamond, Jeff Loeb, Terry Wiechmann, Max Rivers, Joel Yungton, Fred Hiltz, Ed de Moel, Richard Walters, Charlie Volkstorf, Wilhelm Pastoors, Brenda Wiechmann, Paul Grabscheid, Greg Kreis, Winfried Gerum, Paul Perrin, Arden Forrey, Ray Wright, Feng Huang, Bill Lake, Kevin O'Kane, Rick Marshall, Armin van Harten, James Hay, Keith Snell, Steve Popkes, Ditmar Tybussek, Marilyn Paterno, Fred Boles, Jizhong Wang, and Ethan Fener.

Columnists contribute for many issues each year: Ed de Moel (*Windmills*), Don Gall (*From the Chairman*), Winfried Gerum (*Tips 'N' Tricks*), Rick Marshall & George Timson (*Focus on FileMan*), Pamela McIntyre (*Viewpoint*), Art Smith (*Questing*), Don Piccone (*MDC Briefs*), Valerie Harvey (*Threads*).

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MTA staff members all take a hand in preparation of the publication, from writing and soliciting advertising, through typesetting, and proofreading: Sandra Reynolds (Publications Coordinator), Maureen Lilly (Executive Director), Marlo Brown (advertising), Don Piccone (typesetting), Kristi Hanson (reprints), and Pam McIntyre (typesetting).

I owe a special thanks to my predecessors, and especially to Dick Walters for his coaching and cheerleading over the past two years. **M**

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