

## Dear Biology Educator,

Next year, 2008, we will be celebrating our 70th year of existence. During the spring, I read George Jeffers and Jerry P. Lightner's book, *As We Remember It: A Personal Recollection of the First Four Decades of the National Association of Biology Teachers*. The announcement of the formation of NABT appeared in the July 2, 1938 edition of *The New York Times*: the title, "Biologists Form Society—National Teachers Group will Publish a Journal." Dr. Oscar Riddle of the Carnegie Institution made the announcement. Needless to say, I was impressed with our dramatic "birth announcement."

Jerry was the first Executive Director of NABT and served in a leadership role for more than 18 years (1960-1978). I am grateful to Jerry Lightner for sharing this book with me because the information in his book has generated two major activities to which the Board of Directors has made a commitment.

First, there is a need for a defined fund raising campaign. To this need, the NABT Board of Directors created a new staff position, Director of Development. The Director's major responsibility is to improve our financial status through accessing non-traditional funding sources and establishing an endowment fund.

Second, in 2013, NABT will celebrate its Diamond Anniversary (75 years). Now is the time to write a history of NABT that spans the 75 years. Leonard Blessing and Monroe Cravats spent the summer generating an outline for the book. Dennis Gathman, Chair of the Retired Member Section, is working with the retired members to refine the outline and find authors for the writing task. The Board's next step is to find a sponsor or sponsors who will provide funding for the publication. Please, if you are interested in writing or have information to share, contact the NABT office. I think these two goals: an endowment fund and a book of our history are achievable by 2013.

This will be my last letter to you as President of NABT. So I am looking ahead but I want to take some time to reflect on the activities of NABT during