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After Forty Years

The Society's 40th anniversary has been celebrated and it is appropriate to reflect briefly on the status of SESA at this point in time. As a result of the efforts of three long-range planning committees, many officers—in particular past-presidents—and other members of the Society, SESA has moved towards providing services to a broader segment of the engineering community. This shift will result in greater fulfillment of the Society's main goal: to be the leading technical society in the world for engineers devoted to the advancement and utilization of the art of experimental mechanics.

This direction was charted before I took office as president. I have felt that my primary responsibility this past year has been to insure implementation of numerous programs established by Dave Willis, Mike Fourny and others. The most visible of these programs is the change in publications which has resulted in expanded and more timely coverage of developments in experimental devices, testing and applications. By now members are also aware of the opportunity to join the British Society for Strain Measurement for a very reasonable combined fee which includes the quarterly journal *Strain* in addition to SESA's magazine and journal.

This past year the Transducer Technical Activity Committee was formally established, bringing the total number of technical committees to seven. One or two more committees may be developed in the near future. The very successful theme program at the past Fall Meeting sponsored by the Optical Methods Technical Activity Committee is an excellent example of the opportunity for involvement and service available to members through these technical committees.

The Executive Board recognizes the need for continuing investment of Society resources in headquarters' operations to handle expansion of services and to increase efficiency. The purchase of another microprocessor with greater storage capacity and word processing has been authorized. Additional space adjacent to our

present office has been leased. The office staff has been expanded with the addition of a person to work solely in the area of membership—monitoring, promotion, and follow-up. Those who have worked with the Membership Committee throughout the years will particularly appreciate this addition to the staff.

The Society continues to sponsor workshops and seminars. A very successful seminar on fiber-reinforced composite materials was held at King's Island, OH in February and will be repeated this month in Newark, Delaware.

We are continuing to develop contacts with other technical societies. SESA participated in the VIIIth International Conference on Experimental Stress Analysis last August and looks forward to continuing interaction with the European Permanent Committee for Stress Analysis. Our contacts with the BSSM have resulted in the joint-membership program in addition to joint sponsorship of conferences. We are continuing to promote SESA with other groups in this country through the activities of the Inter-Society Liaison Committee, the Managing Director and exhibition booths.

As a result of the programs now in place we are starting to achieve significant membership growth. As of April our actual paid membership was up over 9 percent from that of a year ago—in spite of the poorest national economy in 12 years. SESA membership also increased the previous year, although on a more modest scale. I feel a positive growth trend has definitely been established.

In summary we have had a productive year and the state of the Society is very good indeed. It is not possible in the space I have to thank everyone individually for their great help and support during the past year. I am deeply grateful and appreciative, though, and have enjoyed very much working with all of you.

Stuart E. Swartz
SESA Past-President