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Society Goals 1985-1986

It has become a tradition of the incoming President of SEM to discuss the goals of his administration in his acceptance address. During our 1985 Conference on Experimental Mechanics I was pleased to have the opportunity to pledge my continued support of the programs outgoing President Sharpe considered essential to the continued growth and prosperity of the Society. Notably, Dr. Sharpe's leadership in strengthening the technical committees, and in expanding the Society's involvement in international activities.

I have in mind another goal resulting from my involvement in industrial training, primarily in experimental stress analysis. I am quite surprised at the number of technologists presently pursuing careers in experimental mechanics who are not members of SEM and, even more surprisingly, do not know of our existence. EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUES is a most effective technical service of the Society. As such it is an effective medium for promoting SEM and reaching people who will significantly benefit from involvement with the Society. I believe that by expanding the distribution of EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUES we will increase our membership and thereby increase the number of people enjoying the benefits offered by SEM membership.

During my tenure I will work with the appropriate committees and headquarters staff in developing methods of expanding the circulation of our journal. Together we will investigate methods of making EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUES available at a cost that will hopefully be within the financial means of a greater number of experimentalists. Graded membership, wherein a member or prospective member may have some choice in his or her degree of involvement in the Society, will be considered as one way of accomplishing this goal.

Membership numbers alone are not always indicative of the health of an organization. Big does not necessarily mean better. I am concerned, however, that a large number of people currently involved in the field of experimental mechanics, who could profit from the benefits we offer, are apparently not taking advantage of them, or are not aware of them.

It is my goal to promote greater awareness of the benefits offered by SEM.

Bob Rinn
SEM President
1985-86