

### **Getting More Involved in Your Society**

In the last several issues of the *Journal*, we have been exploring some of the aspects of the support and encouragement the Society can offer you as a member. This time, let's look at some things you can do to support the Society.

The key concept is participation. We already know you are interested in this industry; you have expressed this interest through applying for membership in the first place. We suspect that your interest in the Society is more than just in passing because of the quality and nature of the information and services the Society provides that, by your membership, we know you find of value. That leads us to surmise that you also have something of value to contribute to as well as to receive from your membership. And I suspect that you, as someone interested in this industry and its future, would likely agree.

### **Local, Regional, and National Activities**

So how can you become more involved? Certainly at the Section level, if you want, at least initially, to focus your attentions on your immediate area and on immediate needs. There are lots of committees to work on, with, or chair — such as those associated with recurring and occasional local events — and regular elections are held for those interested in providing direction as Section Managers or Officers. There are also regular opportunities for you to share your expertise with your peers through participation in the regular and scheduled programs offered by the local Sections, which, incidentally, provide an opportunity to hone your presentation skills before a receptive and friendly audience at the same time.

Each region is also represented on the national executive level through the Board of Governors. This board governs the operation of the Society as a whole and you will find, through participation at this level, an opportunity to influence the direction and activities of the Society. A little further along are the Vice-Presidents who, in reality, assume responsibility for the activities of the Society in their particular arenas. They also exert influence and provide direction within the Executive Committee, of which they are active members. It is here that the affairs, activities, problems, and opportunities of the Society are first addressed at the executive level and later presented for the guidance and approval of the Board. To gain an appreciation of what happens at this level it is usually advantageous to have had experience at the Governor level, and for that, previous experience in the Section has proved useful.

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### **Engineering and Conference Participation**

Quite another route to participation is through the engineering activities of the Society. The Engineering Vice-President, Bill Miller, relies entirely on his slate of volunteers, some 600 of them, to pursue and accomplish the engineering and standardization activities of the SMPTE. This is an important and professionally rewarding activity with which to become involved, as is involvement in conference arrangements and conference programs under the direction of the Conference and Editorial Vice-Presidents, Ed Hobson and Bob Kisor, respectively. Through activities such as these, you have an opportunity to both set the agenda and the actual setting for discussion of contemporary technical issues and concerns.

### **Some Other Alternatives...**

Or you could help with the educational activities the Society provides, such as tutorials and seminars, either locally or at the national level. Or in writing tutorials for the *Journal*, or offering particular insights into the operation or application of some technology as a result of your particular area of expertise or experience. Or by sharing some facet of your particular art or science with other interested members to improve their understanding of the medium.

### **You Can Make a Difference**

These are but a few of the ways in which you can participate more fully in the Society, and so contribute, personally, to a greater and improved appreciation of the arts and sciences of motion imaging. You can make a difference in what happens, what is understood, what is being talked about, what is being done, and how it is being done. If that is of interest to you, I encourage you to participate fully in what SMPTE has to offer. We will all benefit from what you can provide. And you will too.