

Message from the Sections Vice-President

J. David Siegler



There are many exciting changes to report that have started to take hold in improving our Sections and membership. We've asked you for ways to better make *your* Society more pertinent to our ever-changing industry. The theme of my last message in the *Motion Imaging Journal* was a call to get more involved with your local Section, the lifeblood of our organization.

We've seen better turnouts in some Sections, and feedback over the recent months indicate more interesting topics. We are preparing a questionnaire that will go out to all members seeking their feedback and suggested improvements that will make for better meetings. Of the comments we've heard from declining Sections, they center around uninteresting topics or simply not having regularly scheduled meetings. Of the strong Sections, holding an interactive "State of the Section meeting" has worked well to gauge interesting topics.

I applaud those who have stepped up their involvement by attending the meetings more frequently. With our upcoming Section elections we have some new candidates on the ballots who will bring in some much-needed fresh ideas. Our Section boards of managers have always benefited from having a balance of junior and senior managers. It is incumbent upon the Section Chairs who have become overburdened after many years to infuse new managers into their Section leadership for the future.

As you will read in the Executive Director's report, we've rolled out a new, redesigned website to better serve our members. The back-end management of the system promises benefits of a more accurate member database as well as a much-improved "Members Area" with an extensive library of technical papers and *Journal* archives going back six years. I encourage you to log-in and check out the new site, update your profile, and explore the new features. I think you'll be impressed!

I'm sure you will agree that there have been many positive changes to *your* Society in recent months that include bringing in our new Executive Director, our new Society President, Director of Education, National Membership Chair, better support and communication from headquarters, strengthened partnerships with other industry organizations, top-notch conferences, and our standards work that defines many segments of our rapidly-changing industry. What an incredible and exciting time to become even more engaged with our growing Society that *is* making a positive difference in all of our professional lives.