



Editorial

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Respected Reader:

In January I met with the Board of Governors and suggested that it was an opportune time for them to seek a new Editor-in-Chief. I'll bid my farewell in the next issue as the reigns are turned over to Dr. Wade Shaw, a most capable individual who has a long history of participation and contribution with the Engineering Management Society (EMS) and within academe.

I wanted to take another view on the Society, its efforts, and its role for members. Having edited the Review for almost nine years now (it seems hard to believe), I have witnessed how hard the Board of Governors works to understand and serve the needs of the membership during very dynamic and challenging times. No other organization serves the interests and needs of engineering management so effectively, yet the current stresses invite a strong professional organization to assist each of us in our growth, contribution, and leadership as engineers in industry.

A long time ago, EMS spoke to the vision of IEEE when the Institute reached out to so many critical areas that have now become disciplines in their own right. Other successes are many: reliability and risk; professional communications; Systems, Man and Cybernetics; and, of course, computing, to mention just a few.

For reasons of finance and time commitment, it seems likely that many professional societies will face stress and even distress; corporate budgets are limited and so are personal calendars. Yet within such challenges interesting things can occur. It is tests such as these that will either eliminate or revitalize the challenged. That is true for employees; companies; and, indeed, professional societies. The challenges faced now by the EMS are complex, yet the needs of engineers and managers for this kind of organization seem more important than ever.

It is a great time for you to throw your hat into the ring and help define a stronger, more vital future for a Society that can meet our professional needs. EMS is making good progress with its efforts to offer members new services and resources. I never expected the possibility that I would ever participate on a governing board, let alone edit a journal. (I've since learned that being an editor is great work for an opinionated person.) I have found that it is easy to get engaged, participate, and even make an occasional contribution to a professional organization.

This is the time to raise our sights and define an evolved Society that will better serve membership in the face of dynamic stresses. Those stresses are precisely why we need EMS. There is great talent on its Board of Governors, and they will help you find a way to participate and expand your horizons in unexpected and enjoyable ways. Looking back, it was always a few individuals that stepped forward and made significant, lasting contributions of leadership.