

Presidents Message



We have heard, from time to time, that AmSECT is only as strong as its members; that all AmSECT members must pitch in to make the Society a success — to make it go.

To be sure, the more members AmSECT can secure, the stronger and sounder the Society will be. A growing membership means added revenue and an indication that we are doing something right.

However, we might be faced with unimaginable chaos if all members attempted to pitch in to make the society a success simultaneously.

“Ask not what AmSECT can do for me, but rather what can I do for AmSECT” is a heroic but impractical phrase. For those of us who have joined the society, we **do** expect something from AmSECT. We are not only perfusionists and technologists. We are husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, lovers, friends — maybe all of these. Our life does not depend upon or revolve around AmSECT. Indeed, we expect AmSECT to be of some practical and/or material benefit to only one segment of our lives.

Therefore — and rightly so — the task of making AmSECT a viable organization with something worthwhile to offer to the membership falls to the elected officers and committee chairmen. They indicated willingness when they chose to run. The membership expressed confidence when they cast their ballots.

As the new President, I would like to see some things happen to move AmSECT to its next logical step — that of contributing to the education, professional statute, and public image of its members.

1. Hopefully the executive directorship will function in such a manner that the day-to-day operation of the society is no longer a problem. Mail will be answered in a timely fashion, memberships will be acknowledged, newsletters will be prepared and mailed, meetings will be properly scheduled and planned.
2. Hopefully, our quarterly journal will assume an even more professional look and character. This should encourage you, the members, to submit your articles for publication.
3. Hopefully, a continuing education program can at least get started. Another hope: that this can get underway without naming yet another committee. Sometimes it appears that money spent on committee meetings might better be directed toward films, filmstrips, or textual material of immediate benefit to all the membership.
4. Hopefully, we need not completely overhaul our certification examination program. Testing devices and techniques change with a degree of regularity. Our concern is not that of providing a pool for testing new techniques — we are looking for certified perfusionists and technologists.
5. Hopefully, our friends in industry will continue to support AmSECT. Some have been with us from the beginning. They too, would like to see an end to the formative years and a move to action.

I also hope that I will be able to report to you the successful completion of these goals. I will report the progress!

Sincerely,
Charles Reed