
Message from the President

This past year has been one of the most memorable experiences of my life next to my combat tour in Vietnam. Although I am not comparing AmSECT to combat, after a time there is a thin line.

Last spring when my Board took office, we left Philadelphia in quite a turmoil:

- The difficulties between the Society and the certifying Board were probably at the top of the list
- The accreditation process was starting into its fourth year and the Essentials and Guidelines were not yet adopted.
- Membership was facing a slump and growth seemed at a standstill
- The surgeons' groups were publishing position papers regarding our profession
- A study was initiated to outline requirements for mandatory government standards for the equipment we operate
- The organization's Bylaws needed some substantial revisions, to say nothing of the new Continuing Education programs about to be undertaken
- There was a new and exciting dimension in perfusion education programs and possibly an opportunity to be a forerunner to our Allied Health peers in this dynamic program

These were just a few problems this administration had to try and solve.

In every story you always have the good news and the bad. First, the good, and I hope, only a little bad. It appears at present that the communication and relationship problems between the American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion and AmSECT have been resolved. I hope that this unity between these groups can strengthen in the future for the benefit of all members of the perfusion profession. We have worked very hard this year and spent numerous hours of communication trying to resolve the differences. Let me say that there are still some rough ends to be polished, but I think we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to report that the accreditation process has finally been engaged. This year, the Essentials and Guidelines have been adopted by the

Committee on Medical Education of the AMA. The Joint Review Committee for Perfusion Education met in January and are presently reviewing two applications for accreditation under this process. There has been an unprecedented amount of time spent this year by your representatives to the JRC, LeRoy Ferries and, of course, Maddie Massengale. The entire Joint Review Committee, comprised of four collaborating organizations, have worked very hard this year and deserve certainly a tribute of appreciation. The membership rolls have increased this year by about 11% and thanks to the hard work of Kaye Music new programs have helped with this increase. In the future, I think we should look to increasing the number of our Associates as well as Active members to provide the needed revenue from memberships. The relationship between the two surgeon societies has been strengthened. AmSECT, for the first time, presented an information exhibit at the STS meeting held last January in Los Angeles. The response from the surgeons was overwhelming. AmSECT plans to provide the same type of exhibit at the AATS meeting to be held in May. I think this has been an important breakthrough for building relationships between the surgeons and AmSECT. The Bylaws revisions have been worked on all year and you will have an opportunity to review and vote on these revisions today. The U.B.T.L. was awarded the FDA contract on CPB device hazards. We monitored and reviewed all the reports and participated in both public hearings held by U.B.T.L. We have also offered an invitation to the FDA as well as AAMI to participate in the standards writing process once the U.B.T.L. completes its study. These are a few of the substantial achievements our Board has provided.

Now, some darker notes to mention. The CE program has fallen slightly behind schedule. The Hands-On workshops have had little or no response from the membership. Thus, it is impossible to provide the programs without participants. The self-study series has fallen behind schedule, but it appears we have been able to shorten the gap. I feel that this is a very valuable program and the new administration has some ideas to possibly provide a more timely series in the coming year. This administration has had several resignations

from some important positions which have slowed progress in these areas. Despite what might seem like a management problem, the only real problem is volunteers to chair and complete their assignments. The Cate Corporation has provided AmSECT with the highest level of management and guidance possible. They can only handle the administration responsibilities. You the member must provide the resources.

In conclusion, let me say that after five years of service on the Board of Directors, I truly regret leaving office. But, I realize that the future lies in the hands of the new leaders. I think that my administration leaves the organization financially sound, professionally alert and reasonably peaceful. Thank you.

Larry W. Cavanaugh, CCP
President, 1980-1981