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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF LEADERSHIP, BY GEORGE

George Marra was a Charter Member of SWST. His death saddened us all. We all have fond memories of him. George happened to be our president at the time of his death, but whether holding office or not, he was always a leader. As part of our anniversary celebration, you recall, George presented a certificate to each of the past-presidents present: Bethel, Muschler, Youngs, Wangaard, Jayne, Haygreen, Kellogg, Schniewind, Maloney, Schaffer, Erickson, Resch, and Thompson. George reflected later, "Presenting those certificates to our past leaders was the most enjoyable duty that I have ever performed for SWST." Each was not only a past-president but a personal friend. George was looking forward to an active retirement, intending to put much effort into being president of SWST. George held high expectations for SWST, and he believed that SWST had an important role to play in society.

The Society has been fortunate to have had, down through the years, excellent leaders like George. Despite our good leaders, however, SWST membership has not grown in the last fifteen years. Did we "mature" in our first ten, then plateau for the last fifteen, and are we now in our decline? That seems like too short a life-cycle for a professional society. We still have a lot we want to do before we go. Of course, membership statistics alone do not tell the whole story. But should we be concerned that our membership (excluding students) rose to 426 in 1968, 455 in 1973, but now stands at under 400? If concerned, what should we do about it?

Thanks to Herb Fliescher and Al Foulger (and all our past-presidents), we have the written history of our first 25 years. But historians can only recount what *happened*. If we are concerned about our next 25 years, there are some things we can do *now* to change what the next 25 years of SWST will be. We might begin by each of us adopting those same high expectations for SWST that George held. He would have approved.

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