PLAY IT AGAIN, SAM!

I recently heard the story about a young minister who was praised for his fine sermon on his first Sunday with his new congregation. When he preached the same sermon the following week, some displeasure and concern were expressed. But when he preached the same sermon for the third Sunday in a row, a committee was appointed to call on him. After the chairman stated their mission and asked, “Don’t you have any sermons on other subjects?” the minister replied, “Oh, yes, I have lots of other subjects. But you haven’t done anything about this one yet!”

The professional concerns of SWST are much like this sermon. They have been lifted up before us for as long as I can remember, but we are still faced with stagnant or declining membership, questions of vitality and visibility, and role definition. Overcoming these and other problems requires the involvement of all of our members in providing ideas, serving on committees, and offering critical evaluations of programs and other activities. A professional society is more than a journal, a few meetings, and a “hobby club” feeling of associating with others of similar interests. It is an opportunity to influence the well-being of society by helping to shape an entire profession. It is more than an opportunity; it is a responsibility. And as once stated by a man named Paul Sweeney, “With every right there is a responsibility. Just once I wish someone would demand his responsibility.”

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