



## Reading Glasses, Bifocals, and Double Vision

Some of you may share my dependence on reading glasses, which have become more necessary with time. Reading without them is comical, but focusing on objects or road signs at a distance is no problem. Bifocals and other corrective lenses are helpful in focusing at different distances, and we need both.

Over the past decade, the Society has had very successful international meetings in Honolulu, Paris, and Québec City. In addition, the development of online access to the *Journal* and *Letters* has benefited the international members of the Society especially by giving rapid access to our peer-reviewed journals. Access to back issues has also been expanded recently for the *Journal*. Our global vision has been expanded by such efforts.

At the same time, Local Section activity in the U.S. has declined for some Sections and they have become defunct. The decline of Local Sections was addressed by the just completed Report of the Ad Hoc Long Range Planning Committee that was received by the Board of Directors at the Québec City meeting. New committees will be appointed to guide implementation of the recommendations in the report. Not all the recommendations in the report were made for Local Sections, but those will be discussed elsewhere.

There is no intention to prop up a structure that is not necessary to meet the needs and interests of our members. We will instead work to help make strong Sections by encouraging interactions with Divisions; encouraging one-day symposia; tutorials, and short courses; and mentoring students and new members. I expect to help the committee for these purposes. Immediate Past-President Robin Susko and Dave Shifler from the Council of Sections have both agreed to serve on this committee, and others will be added shortly. As we begin to work on the recommendations, I would encourage additional suggestions to be addressed to me ([smyrl001@umn.edu](mailto:smyrl001@umn.edu)), or to the other committee members.

My own experience with the Pacific Northwest Section and the Twin Cities Section has convinced me that the health usually depends on a few key persons. These persons were Ted Beck and Sid Gross in Seattle; and Bill Howard, Radoslav Atanasoski, Harvey Kalweit, and Don Deal in the Twin Cities. They have sustained the Sections through many changes, and we need to recruit more leaders like them.

Whether one uses glasses or works to reinvigorate an organization like ECS, a kind of “bifocal” is needed—A local vision is needed to encourage networking and mentoring for the nearby opportunities, and a far-sighted focus is needed for global and national activities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William H. Smyrl".

William H. “Bill” Smyrl  
ECS President