

## SUSTAINING OUR MOMENTUM



In the last few months, we've charted a clear path together – starting with the need for greater relevance, moving through the imperative of growth, and turning that growth into action. Many of you have already answered the call: mentoring a student, organizing events,

contributing technical knowledge, or engaging more deeply in SNAME's mission. The question now is not just “*what's next?*” but “*how do we keep it going?*” How do we sustain this momentum and build a culture where what we're doing now becomes natural habit?

As I write this, I am at the Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) 2025 in Houston. I've had the opportunity to engage with quite a few of our SNAME members as I've roamed the aisles of the vast exhibition, attended some of the more than 100 technical presentations, and worked the SNAME booth as members and non-members came by to check in on how SNAME was doing. They've shared some of our Society's recent successes with me and helped me see where we still face challenges. I was especially impressed by the number of our “retired” members who keep their membership active and want nothing more than for SNAME to flourish. What a testament to the value that SNAME provides!

### ACTION IS HAPPENING – NOW LET'S BUILD ON IT

Across our Society, from our retired members to hundreds of student members around the world, I've seen encouraging signs of energy and initiative as our strategy begins to take hold:

- ▶ Section leaders successfully trying out new meeting formats to better engage a broader spectrum of maritime professionals.

- ▶ Young professionals stepping up to lead discussions on emerging technologies.
- ▶ Participants in our pilot mentoring program launching real, meaningful connections.

These are not small wins. They are signals that the strategy we've been discussing – centered on growth, relevance, and long-term impact – is already coming to life. But for that progress to last, we must do more than just encourage these activities. We must *build systems that reinforce and amplify it*.

### STRENGTHEN OUR ACCOUNTABILITY – EVERYONE PLAYS A ROLE

Forward momentum fades without structure. That's why we are focusing on making sure every strategic priority has a clear owner. Whether it's increasing student engagement, developing technical content, or improving communications, we're asking: *Who is responsible? What does success look like? How will we measure progress?*

Section Officers, Committee Chairs, Panel Chairs, SNAME Staff, and even first-time volunteers can each take ownership of something specific. Execution doesn't belong to a title – it belongs to anyone willing to say, “I'll take this on,” and then does it! So speak up, get involved in your Section leadership, find out where help is needed, and plug the gap. Offer to be a part of the solution!

### BUILD FEEDBACK INTO THE CULTURE & CELEBRATE WHAT'S WORKING

If we want to improve, we have to listen in order to learn and then adjust our course accordingly. To do this, we're starting to build regular feedback loops – short surveys after events, input from panel participants, conversations at Section meetings – so we can understand what's working and what's not. But we need more voices. If something needs to change, tell us. If you see something that works, share it. Constructive feedback isn't criticism – it's fuel to make things better. We want to know what we're doing right, as well as what needs improvement, and we're committed to acting on what we hear.

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Every success that we have – no matter how small – is a model for someone else to learn from. When we celebrate what's working, we inspire others to act and create a playbook for progress. We don't need to reinvent the wheel in every corner of SNAME, even though as engineers we are often tempted to do so! We just need to make sure our members see that we're moving forward so we can invite them to be a part of something great.

I encourage you to write to me at [president@sname.org](mailto:president@sname.org) to share what's working or any concerns. We must work together to continue our positive movement.

So let's keep things moving forward. Let's continue the momentum we've built. Let's celebrate every forward step – and commit ourselves to taking the next one. Let me know what I can do to help you!

**Fair winds and following seas,**



**Rich Mueller**

President

[president@sname.org](mailto:president@sname.org)

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