

MRS Council Meets in Reno, Charts Course for Growth

The Council of the Materials Research Society met April 8-9 during the 1988 Spring Meeting in Reno, Nevada. The following report by MRS Secretary Julia M. Phillips highlights the plans and actions of that meeting.

MRS Meetings

In recognition of the central position of technical meetings in the life of the Materials Research Society, Council, during its meeting in December 1987, approved the creation of the position of Director of Meeting Activities. This position was filled in February 1988 by Merry Geil, who had been involved with MRS meetings for several years while associated with The Complete Conference. Merry is responsible for coordinating all aspects of meeting planning and execution between MRS headquarters, the meeting chairs, symposium organizers, and the various contractors who provide meeting services.

Plans for the technical programs to be offered at the next several MRS meetings are proceeding on schedule. The Call for Papers for the 1988 Fall Meeting, describing the 25 symposia to be featured at the meeting, has been mailed to the MRS membership. The 1989 Spring Meeting is currently slated to have about 18 symposia. The chairs for the 1989 Fall Meeting (Gary L. McVay, James C. Mikkelsen Jr., and Robert J. Nemanich) are putting together the program for that meeting.

Long Range Planning

The Long Range Planning Committee is preparing a proposal for a 5 to 10 year plan for the Society to ensure that MRS will mature in a balanced and coordinated manner. In recognition of the need for balance in the technical content of MRS meetings and other endeavors, Council adopted the following aim as proper guidance for the Long Range Planning Committee:

"To serve the needs of the materials research community with special emphasis on forefront science and emerging technologies and existing topics which can benefit from interdisciplinary treatment."

Short Courses

The MRS Short Course Program has expanded significantly over the past few years, both in the number of courses offered at MRS meetings and in the number of on-site courses. A new development in 1988 has been the teaching of selected MRS short courses at meetings sponsored by other professional organizations. The first such collaboration involved courses presented at the World Congress on Superconductivity in Houston, Texas, in February. The success of this experiment bodes well for future endeavors of this type.

Student Chapters

In an effort to strengthen newly formed MRS Student Chapters, Council voted to change the Bylaws pertaining to the formation of these bodies. A petition to form a Student Chapter must now be signed by eight student members of MRS and by two regular MRS members who are on the faculty of the university to be served by the Chapter. One of the faculty members must have tenure, and both must agree to serve as chapter advisors for at least two years. It is hoped that these requirements will provide increased continuity in these organizations.

Membership

The growth of the MRS membership continues to be remarkable. As of March 31, 1988, there were over 6,400 MRS members worldwide, an increase of some 50% over the past year.

In recognition of the need for membership dues to cover the various benefits of MRS membership, such as *Journal of Materials Research*, the Membership Directory and meeting announcements, Council approved that regular membership dues be raised by \$5 in 1989 to \$50. Student dues will rise by \$2 to \$17.

Budget

Council approved the final 1988 budget of approximately \$2.6 million for the Society. This is about 25% larger than the 1987 budget, reflecting the growth of the Society in both membership and activity.

Julia M. Phillips
Secretary

Membership in the Materials Research Society

The Materials Research Society is dedicated to fostering the exchange of scientific information across the many disciplines involved in materials research. Membership benefits include:

*Subscription to Journal of Materials Research**

Subscription to the MRS BULLETIN

Discounts on special books published by other leading scientific publishers

Discount subscription to Materials Letters

Information on upcoming MRS meetings and short courses

Copy of the MRS Membership Directory

Discount subscriptions on journals published by the American Institute of Physics

**Regular members only. Student members may subscribe for \$15.*

To join, contact the Materials Research Society, 9800 McKnight Road, Suite 327, Pittsburgh, PA 15237; telephone (412) 367-3036; fax (412) 367-4373