
EXPANDING ACTIVITIES OF THE MRS

*Our First Local Chapter, Direct Control Over Proceedings' Volumes,
And Other Steps Characterize An Ever-Expanding List Of MRS Activities*

The activities of the Materials Research Society continue to expand at a very rapid pace as we pass the middle of 1984. The MRS is constantly changing and expanding its activities in response to the needs of the membership. Our most recent initiatives are described in this issue of the BULLETIN, and I would like in this space to amplify on these reports and explain how these developments contribute to the Society's long-range service plans.

Local Chapters

The inauguration of the first local chapter of the Materials Research Society—an extremely important event in our evolution as a professional organization—took place at the Research Triangle Park in North Carolina on June 7, 1984. It is crucial to our future growth and development as a Society that we establish a network of strong, active local chapters. Such chapters will provide greater opportunities for members to participate in the Society, and members, in turn, will feel a greater sense of identity with the national Society. In addition, it should be possible to initiate many activities at the local level, and those that prove to be useful and popular could at some future time be incorporated into the national activities. These activities might include such things as special symposia for students, topical symposia or workshops, short courses on topics of particular interest in the local area, and so on. A strong network of local chapters would greatly increase the participation in, and visibility of, the MRS.

Things get done in the Materials Research Society because individuals take it upon themselves to see that they get done. The Society is not blessed—nor is it burdened—with a large number of coordinated five-year plans. However, we are blessed with a large and growing number of highly motivated, dedicated and creative people. In North Carolina, several of our members who have these qualities saw the need for a local chapter and simply took it upon themselves to make it happen. This occurred even though no formal provision for local chapters had been made in the MRS Constitution or By-laws. The necessary changes will be made in the near future because a major component of the growth of the Society in the future will be provided by local chapters. The North Carolina Chapter can be expected to provide inspiration and leadership in this area.

Publication of Conference Proceedings

In a break with tradition, the decision has been made for the MRS to assume direct responsibility for publishing the MRS CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS series. The Publications Committee, chaired by John Baglin, conducted an in-depth



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study of the options available to the Society for the publication of this series. Following this study, the Committee recommended that the MRS assume responsibility for publication of the PROCEEDINGS. This recommendation was approved unanimously by the Executive Committee. The step was possible only because we have an established Headquarters Office and an Executive Director, John Ballance, with experience in the publication of conference proceedings (as director of publications for The Metallurgical Society).

In taking this action, we have had three objectives: to offer conference proceedings to members at prices that are as low

as possible; to reduce the list price to libraries and individuals as much as possible in order to increase the sale and distribution of MRS PROCEEDINGS volumes, and to maintain complete control over the style and content of the series. This new policy will begin with the PROCEEDINGS to be published by the symposia in the 1984 Annual Meeting. You can be assured that the high quality and rapid publication of the PROCEEDINGS will be maintained.

MRS-Europe

Our colleagues in Europe recently held the second annual MRS-Europe meeting, in Strasbourg, France. The Society was represented at this meeting by Vice Presidents Elton Kaufmann and Bill Appleton. The technical meeting consisted of three symposia and plenary sessions. Attendance was more than 300 professionals, almost double the number of last year. This demonstrates that the European Society is fully established and will continue to flourish in coming years. Paul Siffert and Van Tran Nguyen are to be commended for the efforts they have expended on behalf of MRS-Europe.

It is my belief that the example set by MRS-Europe points the way for the future development of the Materials Research Society. The establishment of a number of closely affiliated but autonomous regional organizations should lead to a union of linked societies with the same basic membership benefits and the common goal of providing service to the international community of materials professionals. Clearly, this has happened in the European community, and similar developments will be encouraged in other regions.

Membership

Membership in the Materials Research Society continues to increase rapidly and now stands at more than 2250. An additional 300 individuals are associated with MRS-Europe. In spite of these increases, segments of the materials community continue to be only vaguely aware of the MRS. The Membership Committee, chaired by Dick Schwoebel, plans to initiate a major membership drive in the early fall. The objective is to provide information about the Society to targeted groups who we believe share the goals and objectives of the MRS, and would benefit from participation in its activities. Julia Phillips has prepared an impressive brochure providing an overview of the Society, which will be used as part of this membership campaign. This year alone, our membership has increased by more than 50 percent, and we should be able to maintain this magnitude of growth in the near future.

A very important component of the Society is our student members. They will determine the future of the MRS. This year we have substantially increased the value of our Student Awards to encourage more active participation by students. The Education Committee, co-chaired by Rod Ewing, is planning a membership drive in the early fall directed primarily toward students and faculty members.

Our goal is to increase significantly the number of our student members and student chapters.

Public Relations and Publicity

In 1984, the MRS established for the first time a Public Relations and Publicity Working Group, whose objective is to coordinate the dissemination of information about the Society and to publicize the Society's goals and objectives. Chaired by Julia Phillips, the group has made remarkable strides. Advertisements relating to the Boston Meeting and Equipment Show have appeared in PHYSICS TODAY and will appear in other journals and magazines. Advertising/editorial exchanges have been arranged with several magazines for the Annual Meeting. The brochure for the membership drive has been prepared and printed. A calendar of upcoming meetings of interest to materials professionals appears regularly in this BULLETIN and is being distributed to other societies. Editorials relating to the upcoming meeting in Boston will appear in several magazines. This Committee and its work is vital to bring the programs and objectives of the Society to the attention of the materials community.

Corporate Affiliates

This year the number of Corporate Affiliates has increased substantially and now stands at more than 60. This is the largest number in our history, and the increase demonstrates the favorable response of the corporate sector to the goals and objectives of the Society. Corporate Affiliates provide an important source of revenue to the Society, but their participation also helps to insure that the programs of the MRS are responsive to the needs of the corporate sector. The Corporate Participation Committee, chaired by Cliff Draper, has done a magnificent job in broadening the base of support for the Society by Corporate Affiliates.

Looking Ahead

What can we expect in the remainder of 1984? Membership will continue to increase, due to the efforts of the Education and Membership committees. The Annual Meeting promises to be the best we have ever held, with 17 topical symposia, a major equipment exhibition, an expanded short-course schedule, and a formalized job-placement service. The Publications Committee is studying the possibility of the Society starting an archival journal, and will make its recommendation to the Council in November. The BULLETIN is being upgraded with changes in style and format.

These are but a few of the activities that will occupy the Society for the remainder of 1984. The purpose of all of them is to make the Society more responsive to the needs of our members and of greatest service to the world community of materials professionals.

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President