

Minutes of the 2007 MAS Business Meeting

Broward County Convention Center

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Wednesday, August 8, 2007

Number in attendance: 75+

The business meeting was brought to order by Paul Kotula at 5:04 p.m.

Welcome and Announcements:

Paul welcomed everyone. He recognized and thanked outgoing Council members: directors Lou Germinario and Dan Kremser, secretary Valerie Woodward and immediate past-chair Rayland Gauvin. Paul pointed out the numerous MAS website updates and focused on the Awards and Microanalysis Resources sections. He reviewed his experiences at EMAS and AMAS.

Secretary's report (Valerie Woodward):

Valerie reviewed the 2006 business meeting minutes. There were no corrections. Paul Hlava moved to approve the minutes, Scott Wight seconded; the minutes were approved. Valerie thanked the Council and the membership for their support during her tenure as MAS secretary.

Treasurer's report (Jim McGee):

Jim presented the budget, which can be found on the MAS website in the summer 2007 MicroNews. He noted the high points: society management cost is being reduced and student support is increasing. The budget is balanced as of this meeting and as of June 30, the society was operating in the black. Jim presented some trends in the Society's finances: 1) downward on income because of decreasing membership, with a steady decline in regular members but with the Sustaining Members staying steady; 2) downward (drastically) on Council expenses; and 3) downward on society management expenses. Jim noted that the Council plan to take over most of the membership services from the business office (Thompson) will allow this expense to continue decreasing. He mentioned that a dues increase is being proposed. Jim also announced that student support is being more aggressively pursued by the establishment of the Chodos Fund (formerly Potter Fund). The Chodos Fund was bolstered by Duncumb and Macres Award winners returning their monetary awards to the Society for student support, as well as by Sustaining Members JEOL and Cameca donations to support 8 students. Paul Carpenter moved to accept the treasurer's report, Dan Kremser seconded; the treasurer's report was accepted.

Membership Services report (Lou Ross):

At this meeting there are 426 members, with 20 new regular members and 11 new student members. Lou announced that the Society is taking over the membership database from the business office as part modernization of and expense reduction for membership services. There will be some database access on the website in the future, and the efforts will eventually lead to web-based membership renewal. He noted that the problems with members not receiving back issues of Microscopy and Microanalysis are being addressed and that he received a message from Cambridge University Press (CUP) at this meeting that the back issues were being sent to the members.

Sustaining Members report (Cathy Johnson):

Cathy stated that we have 23 SMs in 2007 and the likelihood that we will have 2 more before the meeting is over. At this time last year we had 25. She and corporate liaison Vern Robertson have been soliciting and collecting learning materials for the "Microanalysis Resources" portion of the Society website from the SMs. Cathy asked all of the SMs to contact her or any Council member at any time with contributions, problems, questions, etc. Dale Newbury asked if there were direct links to the SM websites on the Society website and Cathy confirmed that was the case.

Affiliated Regional Societies and Tour Speakers report (Paul Hlava):

Paul said that the year has been successful so far, with 7 Tour Speakers having completed AReS visits and with 4 in the planning stages. The top tour speaker was Robert Simmons – Paul noted that Robert was the first ever biologist with the highest number of requests. There were several "extra" speakers who either volunteered or extended his or her 2006 commitment: Brendan Griffin, Rhonda Stroud, Joe Michael, Paul Kotula and John Mackenzie. He announced the 2008 speakers: 1) Nicholas Ritchie, NIST, EDS Tutorial; 2) Milos Toth, FEI, VPSEM; and 3) Lou Germinario, Eastman Chemicals, nanoTA-AFM. Paul asked the attendees to send any AReS officer changes to him as soon as they occur so he can keep the AReS portion of the website updated. He also announced that one of the tour speakers would present a tutorial instead of a talk, and that after August 2008 there would be a general microanalysis talk available. Paul Kotula added that Paul Hlava will continue as AReS/Tour Speaker chair following his retirement from Sandia on November 1, 2007.

Computer Activities Committee report (Luke Brewer):

Luke noted that the CAC's main thrust in the short term was to develop methods to pay dues and vote electronically. He reviewed the need to change the bylaws in order to allow electronic voting, and said that if anyone had any suggestions or ideas to contact Scott Wight (CAC chair) or Luke. Tom Huber asked if these initiatives will save the Society money; Luke said yes. Nestor Zaluzec asked if the SMs could register this way and Luke answered that there shouldn't be any problems. At this point, Jim McGee stated that ~2/3 of our business office costs are membership functions and these initiatives will help to decrease costs related to membership services. He also noted we would only retain the business office for accounting purposes.

Publications report (Charlie Lyman and Ryna Marinenko):

Charlie noted that Microscopy and Microanalysis is doing very well, and is #2 of 9 in the microscopy category (#1 is Histology and Cell Biology). Our impact factor is 2.1 and all of the traditional microscopy journals are below as of this writing. Charlie noted that the web-based submission process is going quite well; the first 5 papers made it through the process in ~8 months compared to two years ago when the process took well over 1 year. Paul Kotula commended Charlie for his outstanding efforts since the inception of the journal.

Ryna noted that anything that is updated on the Society website (officers, bylaws, treasurer's report, etc.) will not be in MicroNews. She is attempting to make MicroNews more of a newsletter. She said that she can't always coordinate MicroNews releases with AReS functions but will try to be timelier in 2008 and beyond.

Conferences (many):

M&M 2007 (Ed Vicenzi, MAS co-chair) – microanalysis content is strong, with ~1/3 of the meeting content related to it. He thanked Mike Marko and John Henry Scott for their support.

Hyperspectral Imaging II (Ian Anderson) – this MAS topical conference (TC) was postponed from May 2007 and is rescheduled for October 23-26, 2007 in order to attract more students and avoid scheduling conflicts on the NIST campus. The TC is being sponsored by MAS and NIST, and has pledges of support from 8 corporate sponsors. Ian thanked Paul Carpenter and Cathy Johnson for obtaining the corporate sponsors. The agenda includes a first day of demos with preference given to early career scientists and students; a second day of platforms with 34 speakers. Some of the demonstrators include Ian, Dale Newbury, Nicholas Ritchie, Ed Vicenzi and John Henry Scott, Jeff Davis and Steven Stranick. Some of the speakers include: Mike Keenan, Colin Macrae and Emmanuel Marquis. Ian noted the key dates for the TC: abstract submission starting August 15, registration by September 1, abstract deadline on September 15, full program posted by October 1, and registration close on October 15.

IUMAS-4 (Joe Michael) – the meeting will be held February 10-15, 2008 in Perth, Western Australia, Australia. There are three MAS-sponsored student travel awards for \$1500.00 each. Paul Kotula thanked David Williams for the donation of his Duncumb Award to the student support for this meeting.

M&M 2008 (Paul Carpenter, MAS co-chair) – the scientific program is secure and there are six microanalysis sessions so far.

Electron Backscattered Diffraction Topical Conference (Joe Michael, John Fournelle and Luke Brewer) – this conference will be held May 20-22 in Madison, WI, and will address scientists new to EBSD as well as veterans.

Nominating Committee (Ian Anderson):

The committee consisted of president-elect Ian Anderson, first-year directors Luke Brewer and Kristin Bunker, and members in good standing Cathy Johnson and Gianluigi Botton. The candidates are:

Directors: Brendan Foran, Stuart McKernan, Nicholas Ritchie and Milos Toth

Secretary: Scott Davilla

President-elect: Cathy Johnson

Paul Kotula asked for nominations from the floor – there were none. Paul Hlava moved to close the nominations and Nestor Zaluzec seconded; the motion was carried.

New Business (several):

Ian announced the name change of the Potter Fund to the Chodos Fund. Part of Ian's platform was to increase student membership and the Chodos Fund will be one way to support students to attend meetings. Ian presented his financial challenge to the membership – for every contribution by the members to Chodos Fund, Ian will match each of them up to the cost of a \$40 regular membership. He will target faculty members in a separate solicitation.

Paul Kotula announced that Eugene Jarosewich was granted posthumous honorary membership.

Paul Kotula presented the dues increase and structure to the membership for approval. The regular dues will increase to \$40 for regular members and \$10 for students and emeritus members. If dues are paid prior to December 1, a \$5 discount will take affect at the next dues billing. Paul Hlava moved to allow the \$5 discount in perpetuity as long as the postmark on the dues was December 1, and Luke Brewer seconded. Brendan Griffin asked about international members, and Paul Kotula answered that as long as the payment was postmarked December 1, the discount would apply. The motion was carried.

Ryna Marinenko discussed ISO/TC 202. She noted that a yearly meeting is required, and told the attendees that need needs reviewers to help her.

Bylaws Changes (Paul Carpenter):

The bylaws review committee consisted of Paul Carpenter, Kristin Bunker and Paul Kotula. Paul Carpenter stated that all of the changes he was presenting at this meeting were approved by the Council on August 5. He said that the thrust of the changes is to relieve us of the secret mail ballots and allow electronic voting. The current bylaws and the proposed amendments will be available on the MAS web site for review by the membership. John Henry Scott moved to place the changes, in total, on the fall ballot, John Mansfield seconded. Discussion ensued with Nestor Zaluzec asking if these changes did not preclude the use of paper and but only allowed electronic ballots; Paul Kotula said yes, that was the case. Nicholas Ritchie asked how the voting service would confirm which voters are eligible to vote, and Paul Carpenter answered that the Society sends a list of the eligible members to the voting service, which will in turn send said members a user ID and password for voting site login purposes; once a member has logged in and voted, he or she will be closed out of the system and cannot vote again. John Henry also noted that there will be two tellers (one a non-Council member) who shall verify that the list we submit to the voting service is of current paid members. John Mansfield moved to close the discussion and Nestor Zaluzec seconded; the motions were carried.

Transfer of Presidency (Paul Kotula):

Paul Kotula passed the beads and the gavel to Ian Anderson. Ian thanked Paul Kotula for streamlining our organization in order to concentrate on the Society's mission, not its processes.

Ian Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.