



2025 MAS Summer Council Meeting
23 July, 2025, 13:00-16:00 EDT, via Zoom

Andrew Herzing	President 2024-2026
Patrick Camus	Past President 2024-2025
Assel Aitkaliyeva	President-Elect 2025-2026
Owen Neill	Secretary 2023-2025
Dale Burns	Treasurer 2025-2026
Katherine Burgess	Director 2023-2025
Jordan Hachtel	Director 2023-2025
Megan Holtz	Director 2024-2026
Jessica Riesterer	Director 2024-2026
Aurélien Moy	Director 2025-2027
Debangshu Mukherjee	Director 2025-2027
Steve Seddio	Commercial Director 2023-2025
Thomas Lam	AReS 2024-2026
John Fournelle	Archivist since 2010
Brad De Gregorio	Awards since 2020
Josh Taillon	Computer Activities since 2024
Mary Scott	Education since 2022
Abigail Lindstrom	Goldstein Scholar Coordinator
Vin Smentkowski	Fellows since 2022
Rhonda Stroud	Finance since 2025
Heather Lowers	International Liaison since 2018
Emma Bullock	Membership since 2020
Joe Boro	Social Media since 2024
Angela Halfpenny	Strategic Planning since 2023
Anette von der Handt	Topical Conferences since 2024
Ed Vicenzi	MAM Editorial Board
Stuart Wright	M&M2025 Co-Chair

Present on call: Emma Bullock, Dale Burns, Brad de Gregorio, Jordan Hachtel, Anette von der Handt, Andy Herzing, Thomas Lam, Abby Lindstrom, Heather Lowers, Aurélien Moy, Owen Neill, Jessica Riesterer, Mary Scott, Vin Smentkowski, Rhonda Stroud, Josh Taillon, Ed Vicenzi, Stuart Wright

- Call to Order: 13:05 EDT (Andy Herzing)
- Approve Agenda (Andy Herzing)
 - o Abby Lindstrom moved to accept the agenda of the meeting, Emma Bullock seconded.
 - Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- Presidential Opening Remarks (Andy Herzing)
 - o Andy Herzing noted that the majority of discussion will be about M&M2025.
- Secretary's Report (Owen Neill)
 - o Emma moved to approve the [minutes of the 2025 MAS Spring Council Meeting](#), Abby seconded.
 - Motion carried by voice vote, one abstention.
 - o Owen outlined a proposed change to Article VI, Section 4 of the MAS bylaws, to implement ranked-choice voting for candidates for office, with a coin-flip used in the event of a tiebreaker.
 - This change was necessitated by the 2024 election which was one vote away from ending in a tie, a situation for which the current bylaws provide no guidance.
 - The current text of Article VI, Section 4 is as follows:

“An official ballot shall be prepared by the Secretary containing the selections for each office, and including write-in space for each office. A copy shall be made available electronically or by mail to each Voting Member of the Society not later than November first of each year. The voting shall be conducted as outlined in Article III, Section 7, and shall be performed by the Voting Member no later than 5 pm PST on December first. The President shall appoint two Members to confirm the validity of the ballots, at least one of which is not an officer of the Society. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes is elected.”

- The proposed change to Article VI, Section 4 is as follows:

“An official ballot shall... ..officer of the Society. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes is elected, as decided by ranked-choice voting. In the event of a tie that prevents the determination of a clear winner for any elected position, the winner

will be decided by a coin flip between the tied candidates. The coin flip will be conducted by the President, in the presence of the Secretary, Past-President, the electoral candidates who have tied in the voting, and one Member who is not an officer of the Society as appointed by the President. The coin flip may take place virtually or in person.

- Owen described the system of ranked-choice voting used by Skypunch, the service used by MAS to conduct elections.
 - Owen also gave a brief description of the procedure for deciding a vote by coin flip, should ranked-choice voting still end in a tie.
 - o Emma moved to present the proposed modification to Article VI, Section 4 of the MAS bylaws to the MAS membership for vote in the MAS election, Stuart Wright seconded.
 - Motion carried by voice vote, one abstention.
- Treasurer's Report (Dale Burns)
 - o Dale Burns gave a brief report on MAS' finances, as of 23 July, 2025.
 - Total income: \$33,264.33 (\$84,350.00 projected).
 - Dale reported that membership income was meeting expectations.
 - Funding from corporate award sponsorships continues to come in.
 - Total expenses: \$37,972.13 (\$113,262.50 projected).
 - Operating expenses: \$27,651.64 (\$56,950.00 projected).
 - Meeting expenses: \$10,812.00 (\$58,000 projected).
 - There have been very few changes since spring.
 - Dale summarized the current state of the MAS accounts.
 - Total liquid assets: \$158,366.40.
 - Total charitable funds: \$48,486.04.
 - Schwab investment account: \$908,650.70.
 - Total encumbered assets: \$1,115,503.14.
 - Total unencumbered assets: \$1,067,017.10.
 - Dale outlined the proposed MAS budget for 2026.
 - Total budgeted meeting expenses: \$58,000 (\$58,000 in FY25).
 - Total budgeted operating expenses: \$57,450.00 (\$56,950 in FY25).
 - The budget is very similar to that of FY25, with a \$500 increase in seed money for topical conferences.
 - Dale reported that the Q2 reconciliation had been completed.
 - o In the next few weeks, Dale said he would be working on:

- Finalizing and collecting sponsored award donations
- Invoicing M&M for the current portal reconciliation.
- Membership (Emma Bullock)
 - o Emma reported that as of 17 July, 2025, MAS has 829 members in good standing, compared to 794 on 16 July, 2025.
 - Of those members, 129 are MAS only and 220 are students.
 - These numbers will be finalized after the on-site registrations at M&M2025 are reported.
 - o Emma also reported that she had reviewed the list of new MAS members and there appeared to be no issues.
 - Stuart moved to accept the new MAS members, Abby seconded.
 - Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
 - o Emma asked Council members to help advertise the hardship waiver of membership fees for members in good standing with uncertain funding status.
 - This waiver is confidential, and there is a form on the MAS website that sends information about candidates for this waiver to Emma.
 - o Emma also asked for suggestions for new Emeritus or Honorary memberships to MAS.
 - Heather Lowers suggested Cathy Johnson
 - o Emma reminded council members to sign up for shifts to work at the MAS booth at M&M2025.
 - Candy will be provided.
- FIGMAS (Abby Lindstrom)
 - o Abby reported that the FIGMAS business meeting would be held at lunch on Thursday, 31 July, at M&M2025.
 - The FIGMAS Symposium will take place on Tuesday morning, while the poster session will be held Thursday.
 - Will Nachlas will provide an update about the progress of the FIGMAS Strategic Planning Initiative at the business meeting on Thursday.
 - o Andy asked whether it would be possible to display advertisements for FIGMAS events at the MAS booth.
 - Abby said she would put this together.
- MAM Journal Update (Ed Vicenzi)
 - o Ed Vicenzi reminded council that the Microscopy and Microanalysis Journal was abbreviated MAM, rather than M&M.
 - o Ed reported that the MAM impact factor had increased to 3.0, marking the third

consecutive year of improvement.

- o Andy said he would discuss plans for highlighting microanalytical journal articles with the MAM editorial board.
- Strategic Planning Report (Andy Herzing for Angela Halfpenny)
 - o Andy reported that two Student Social Media Ambassadors had been found for M&M2025.
 - The ambassadors are Austin Houston (University of Tennessee-Knoxville) and Caleb Okrucky (Northern Arizona University).
 - The Ambassadors will work with Joe Boro to create social media posts about events throughout the meeting.
 - Andy asked that further suggestions for social media content be directed to Joe or one of the Ambassadors.
- Archivist (Andy Herzing for John Fournelle)
 - o No report.
- AReS (Thomas Lam)
 - o Thomas Lam reported that the first meeting of the Great Lakes Microscopy Society will take place on 7 October, 2025.
 - MAS tour and student speakers have been requested for this event.
 - Thomas said that he would provide the organizers with an updated list of MAS tour speakers.
 - Heather noted that the tour speakers can be any MAS member in good standing.
 - o Thomas noted that there had been two talks given by MAS tours speakers so far in 2025.
 - o Heather added that the Mountain States Society of Electron Microscopists has scheduled a meeting for October.
 - o Andy asked Thomas to tabulate the meetings of the AReS meetings to advertise at the MAS booth at M&M2025.
- Awards (Brad de Gregorio)
 - o Brad de Gregorio said that the plaques for the Plenary Awards had been delivered to the warehouse of supplies for M&M2025, and asked that someone collect them.
 - An article for Microscopy Today about the award winners has been written and should be published shortly.
 - o Brad provided [a link to the nomination form for Best Paper awards](#).

- Brad noted that there were only six candidates for the Creative Canvas award.
- o Brad reminded Council members to submit nominations for Best Paper awards, and to remind others to submit nominees as well.
 - Emails will be sent to membership with the link to the nomination form.
 - Slides with a link to the award nomination form will be displayed between platform sessions.
 - Towels will again be awarded to nominators (one per person).
 - Emma said that she would update Constant Contact with the most recent membership list before emails go out.
- o Brad is looking for new Awards Committee members for next year.
 - This will hopefully include a representative from the MSA Student Council.
 - Thomas said that he had a recommendation for a Student Council member which he would send to Brad.
- Computer Activities (Josh Taillon)
 - o Josh Taillon reminded Council members to be aware of spam and spearfishing attempts.
 - o Josh said that he would attend M&M on Monday and Tuesday but would miss the business meeting.
- Social Media (Andy Herzing for Joe Boro)
 - o No report.
- Education (Mary Scott)
 - o Mary Scott thanked the volunteers for Meal with a Mentor, and said that the planning for the event was well under way.
 - Any volunteers who have not gotten their table assignments at this point should contact Mary.
 - o Mary reported that ~100 students had signed up for the event.
 - Andy asked whether this was a typical attendance for Meal with a Mentor.
 - Mary said that this was typical, although not every student who signs up for the event attends.
 - o Heather asked whether it would be possible to expand the Meal with a Mentor event due to its popularity.
 - Mary agreed that this was a good idea, while noting that this would also require finding more volunteers to be mentors.
 - The idea is under consideration for next year.
 - o Andy asked when the registration for Meal with a Mentor ended due to the event

being full.

- Mary said that registration ended on 22 July.

- Fellows (Vin Smentkowski)

- o Vin Smentkowski reported that Lucille Giannuzzi would be rotating off of the committee, and that he would be looking for a new member.
 - Ed volunteered to step in after Lucille's term finishes.
- o Vin provided a brief description of the Fellows program, and [a link](#) to the nomination form.
 - The deadline to submit nomination packages is 30 September.
 - Vin reminded Council that nominees must have been active in both microanalysis and in MAS to be considered.
 - Andy asked whether there were any nomination packages currently up for consideration.
 - Vin said that there were no formal submissions at this time but there has been informal interest expressed.
- o Vin reviewed the 2024/2025 activities of the Fellows Committee.
 - The committee received one nomination package, which was denied as the candidate did not meet the requirements.
 - Heather asked whether the percentage of membership being MAS fellows needed to be revisited.
 - Jordan asked about the criteria under which a nominee would be considered to be sufficiently active in MAS for consideration.
 - Andy said that this would entail some sort of significant impact on MAS, in addition to a significant contribution to microanalytical science, though this did not necessarily require the nominee to have served on the MAS council.
 - Rhonda Stroud added that this could also include activity in AReS.

- Finance (Rhonda Stroud)

- o Rhonda reported that the MAS investment account with Charles Schwab is up a few percent from the first few weeks of July.
 - The account is currently worth approximately \$900,000.
- o Investments are guided by the MAS investment policy to ensure a well diversified portfolio.
 - The portfolio is currently slightly heavy on large-cap and light on small cap and foreign investments, but still within the proscribed ranges.
 - Rhonda said that she would re-invest the current cash dividend.
 - The Finance Committee will re-visit the portfolio in Q3 to determine if

rebalancing is necessary.

- o Rhonda reiterated the need to think strategically about how to use investment funds to best serve the MAS membership.
- International Liaison (Heather Lowers)
 - o Heather reported on a number of upcoming events being hosted by MAS' international partners.
 - EMAS will be hosting a Regional Topical Workshop on EBSD on June 15-17, 2026 which will take place near Fontainebleau, France.
 - Details will be announced in September.
 - AMAS will host the 2026 AMAS meeting in February.
 - <https://amas-symposium.org.au/2026/home>
 - Workshops will be held at CSIRO, Australian Synchrotron, and National Gallery of Victoria on 9-10 February.
 - The full AMAS meeting will take place at Pullman Albert Park outside Melbourne on 11-13 February.
 - Potential workshops beforehand may include cryo-EPMA, soft x-ray analysis, advanced indicator minerals, CL (practical and hands-on), cultural heritage microanalysis and workshops at the synchrotron.
 - The second international xCLent CL workshop will take place on Monday, 16 February, following AMAS
 - The IUMAS-9 meeting will take place on 31 May – 3 June in Xi'an, China.
 - <https://iumas9.casconf.cn/>
 - The 21st International Microscopy Congress will take place in Liverpool, UK, on 28 August – 5 September, 2026.
 - o Heather added that the reciprocity for invitations to meetings for MAS, AMAS and EMAS presidents is back on track, as is support for student awardees to attend these meetings.
 - o Heather also noted that M&M organizers need to be aware of the need for speaking slots to be available for the AMAS/EMAS presidents and student attendees.
 - Andy said that he would make sure the MAS co-chair for M&M2027 is aware of this need when the co-chair is identified.
- Topical Conferences (Anette von der Handt)
 - o Anette von der Handt discussed potential future Topical Conferences on sample preparation and software solutions for microanalysis.
 - Both TC's would likely be held virtually.

- No organizing committees have been formed for either TC.
- Anette will send out a poll on meeting topics of potential interest to try and identify organizers for TCs.
- Vin and Abby expressed interest in assisting with organizing TC's.
- o Anette described the potential benefits to using the Zoom meeting platforms for hosting online TC's.
 - Zoom functions include features such as sponsors and vendor expositions, which could be useful in attracting interest and sponsorship from industry.
 - Fixed licenses can be purchased for a set number of meeting attendees, which can be spread across multiple meetings.
 - More capacity can be purchased if needed.
 - The cost for these licenses is approximately \$1200.
 - In the past, approximately \$2000 in seed funding had been allocated, and Anette asked for a similar item to be included in the next budget MAS to purchase licenses for virtual TCs.
 - Anette moved to carry the TC seed money budget line item forward to 2026, and to increase the amount to \$1500, Emma seconded.
 - o Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- o Anette discussed the status of a possible in-person TC on EBSD in 2027.
 - There had been some interest expressed by the University of Minnesota in holding this event, but nothing has been formalized.
 - The QMA2019 TC was held at UMN and was very successful, so the infrastructure for a TC at UMN is already in place.
 - Anette mentioned the possibility of having an EBSD TC at the University of British Columbia, in conjunction with the Microscopy Society of Canada/Société de Microscopie du Canada.
 - Andy asked whether such a meeting at UBC would take place in conjunction with another MSC/SMC meeting.
 - o Anette said that this would not be part of another MSC/SMC meeting, but rather an MAS TC with MSC/SMC involvement.
 - Abby noted that international meetings may be difficult for federal employees to attend.
 - Anette mentioned that there would be an EBSD-focused meeting in 2026 in France sponsored by EMAS, which might depress attendance.
 - o Stuart noted that the EMAS meeting would not have the hands-on component that had featured at previous EBSD

TC's.

- Andy asked when UMN would make a decision on whether or not to host the event.
 - Anette said she would follow up with UMN.
- Nominating Committee (Andy Herzing for Assel Aitkaliyeva)
 - o Andy outlined the nominees for elected positions, to be voted on in November, 2025.
 - Candidates for Secretary:
 - Jordan Hachtel, ORNL.
 - Candidates for Director:
 - Andres Marquez Rossy, University of Tennessee – Knoxville.
 - Vighter Iberi, The Proctor & Gamble Company.
 - Christopher Marvel, Louisiana State University.
 - Shize Yang, Yale University.
 - o Andy also mentioned two new appointees.
 - MAM Editorial Board: Ed Vicenzi, Smithsonian.
 - Goldstein Award Coordinator: Michelle Thompson, Purdue University.
 - o Andy asked that anyone interested in servicing as the MAS co-chair for M&M2027 contact him.
 - o Heather noted the lack of gender diversity among the director candidates, and suggested adding another candidate to rectify this if possible.
- M&M 2025 Update (Stuart Wright)
 - o Stuart provided an update on the program for M&M2025.
 - The program includes 10 Analytical Sciences symposia, 10 Physical Sciences symposia, 8 Biological Sciences symposia, and 8 Interdisciplinary Sciences symposia.
 - Stuart reported that registration for M&M2025 was approximately in line with that of M&M2024.
 - So far, registration is fairly consistent with that of previous meetings, although the virtual meetings make the data noisy.
 - M&M2019 and M&M2015 were both held in Portland and as such had abnormally large registration.
 - Exhibitor registrations are also on track with previous meetings.
 - o Andy gave a brief outline of MAS activities at M&M2025.
 - Andy showed pictures of the redesigned MAS booth, including new graphics and furnishings for the space.

- Andy will be looking to have more microanalysis-focused images on the booth walls for M&M2026.
 - Andy also noted that the cost for the booth comes from MSA's contract with the meeting organizers and therefore comes at no cost to MAS.
- Andy also said that Dave Tomlin will arrive on Saturday prior to the meeting, and has exhibitor badges for those who will be working at the MAS booth.
- Joe created new MAS stickers to give out at the booth.
- A poster describing the major MAS major awards has been created and will be printed on site.
 - Andy thanked Assel Aitkaliyeva for designing the poster.
- The MAS social will be held at Squatters Pub, approximately two blocks south of the convention center.
 - Heather asked how many people the pub could accommodate.
 - Andy said he would check, but that it was likely similar to past meetings.
 - Emma asked how many drink tickets would be printed
 - Andy said that there would be two tickets per attendee.
 - The tickets can be picked up from VirtualInc.
- Andy described various changes to Council's roles at M&M2025.
 - Rhonda will be assisting Andy in distributing the Plenary awards.
 - Stuart will be assisting Andy in distributing the Sustaining Member plaques.
 - Andy will attend the Sustaining Member breakfast and the M&M2026 Planning Meeting.
- Andy gave a brief reminder of MAS-sponsored events at M&M2025.
 - Meal with a Mentor will be conducted after the Plenary on Monday.
 - Mentors should have already been contacted regarding time and location.
 - Andy reminded Council members to sign up to work at the MAS booth during the meeting.
 - The MAS Business Meeting will take place at 5:30PM on Wednesday, 30 July.
 - The MAS social will take place at Squatters Pub immediately after the business meeting.
- M&M2026 Report (Andy Herzing for Steve Seddio)
 - Andy reported that the M&M2026 organizers received 36 symposia proposals,

down from 60 in 2025 and 55 in 2024.

- Symposia include 14 Analytical Sciences, six Biological Sciences, two Interdisciplinary Sciences, and 14 Physical Sciences.
 - The M&M2026 Program Committee combined six of the symposia and added two more.
 - Thirty-two total symposia will take place at M&M2026.
 - o The Program Chair chair will pre-record a presentation on M&M2026 which may be added to the business meeting program.
- Sustaining Members (Andy Herzing for Steve Seddio)
 - o No report.
 - Next Meetings (Andy Herzing)
 - o The MAS Business Meeting on Wednesday, 30 July, at M&M2025.
 - Andy asked Council members to put together slides reporting on their activities for the Business Meeting.
 - o The MAS Fall Council meeting will take place sometime in October.
 - Adjourn (Andy Herzing)
 - o Emma moved to adjourn the meeting, Josh seconded.
 - Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
 - Adjourn: 14:48 EDT.