

In the Final Analysis

“We want to stay as close as possible to the people that we serve.”

— Vladimiro Papangelakis

As executive director of TMS, I find myself in the position of being invited to quite a few conferences and events sponsored by numerous professional associations worldwide. In response to one such invitation, TMS President Wolfgang Schneider and I recently attended the Conference of Metallurgists 2012, which is the annual meeting of the Metallurgical Society (MetSoc) of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy, and Petroleum. This was an especially timely visit as the Conference of Metallurgists will be integrated with this coming October's Materials Science & Technology 2013 conference in Montreal. It was a good opportunity to learn more about how the cultures of these two unique events and the five sponsoring partner societies will mesh. I sense that it is going to be a memorable collaboration.

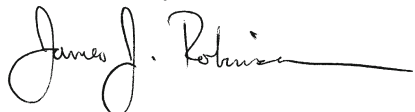
That said, when attending a conference, it is not always the big things that you remember, but the little things are what resonate long afterward. For example, during the event's luncheon ceremony, the congenial Dr. Papangelakis was installed as president, and he caught my ear during his brief comments with the above statement on how the MetSoc volunteer leadership attempts to represent and serve their general membership. Elegant and simple: “Stay as close as possible to the people that we serve.” That's great for MetSoc, and, in truth, it is a characteristic that I have seen demonstrated time and time and time again by members of the TMS Board of Directors.

If you are one of those distinguished few who would like to continue this representative tradition on behalf of your fellow TMS members, then the TMS Board has an opportunity for you. On the opposite page, you will find the Board positions that are open for term 2014–2017. Each Board member typically leads a committee or council, has budget responsibilities, must attend several in-person meetings and teleconferences each year, be willing to review and discuss complex materials, and, most of all, be willing to lead and represent the interests of the membership. For the right individuals, the open positions are

The **Vice President, President, and Past President** rotation (the elected individual spends one year in each position). When serving as president, the officer takes the leadership role in monitoring and evaluating organizational performance and effectiveness and, naturally, works closely with the Executive Director (i.e., me; bonus, right?). This role requires a person familiar with the big picture of society affairs and someone who is willing to dedicate literally countless hours to representing the membership and the society in many situations. Joining the pantheon of TMS presidents is a remarkable distinction.

Meanwhile, the **Public and Governmental Affairs Director** is the most outward facing of the Board positions, helping extend the reach of the society beyond the realm of the materials community to legislators, public policy makers, the media, and other non-technical audiences. Next, the **Professional Development Director** leads the TMS efforts concerned with professional registration (working with the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying), education, and accreditation (working with ABET). TMS, as you likely know, plays big roles in each of these areas. Finally, the **Content Director** guides the management and development of TMS content initiatives, inclusive of journals, books, e-resources, and other media. TMS is, at its core, an association dedicated to sharing technical content, so this position oversees a big element of the essential fabric of the society.

Do you see yourself as a member of the Board in one of these positions? If so, I very much encourage you to consider submitting your nomination. The commitment may be big, but I think that you'll find the reward immeasurable.



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