The Structural Materials Division: Adding Strength to TMS and Its Membership Since 1988

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Among the most important benefits of TMS membership are opportunities for the exchange of technical information, the exchange of ideas, and professional networking. Realizing these benefits requires only that you make contact with fellow members who share your professional interests and responsibilities. Let us explore how this can be accomplished. But first, a bit of history.

The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society (TMS) was born in 1957 of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers (AIME), itself founded in 1871 as the Metallurgical Society of AIME. TMS siblings under AIME include the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME); the Association for Iron and Steel Technology (AIST); and the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE). Through this relationship, TMS can trace its origin back to one of the first national engineering societies in the United States. Following many years of growth under AIME, TMS was separately incorporated in 1984. TMS is now the professional society of choice for thousands of materials professionals with interests across the entire range of materials science and engineering.

The materials professionals comprising TMS membership took on responsibility for a greatly increased array of specialized technical topics in the years after the society was founded. To address this increase in technical specializations, five technical divisions were created within TMS. These were

announced in the June 1988 *Journal of Metals*, forerunner of *JOM*, by Bob Bartlett, TMS vice president at the time. One of these divisions, the topic of this article, is the Structural Materials Division (SMD). As is evident in its name, the SMD exists to serve the needs of materials professionals concerned with structural materials. A structural material is simply any material applied to the purpose of bearing a load. If you are concerned with such materials, then read on to learn how the SMD might serve you. If your interests and responsibilities include other materials issues, then please investigate the companion TMS technical divisions: the Extraction & Processing Division (EPD); the Light Metals Division (LMD); the Electronic, Magnetic & Photonic Materials Division (EMPMD); and the Materials Processing & Manufacturing Division (MPMD).

The first step toward making contact with TMS members who share your professional interests and responsibilities in structural materials is through the SMD technical committees. The SMD encompasses 11 committees, each devoted to a particular type or aspect of structural materials. Realizing the full benefits available to you as a TMS member is simply a matter of your participation in one or more of these committees. The technical committees of the SMD are:

- Advanced Characterization, Testing, and Simulation Committee
- Alloy Phases Committee
- Biomaterials Committee
- Chemistry and Physics of Materials Committee
- Composite Materials Committee

- Corrosion and Environmental Effects Committee
- High Temperature Alloys Committee
- Mechanical Behavior of Materials Committee
- Nuclear Materials Committee
- Refractory Metals Committee
- Titanium Committee

These committees hold regular meetings at the TMS Annual Meeting, and some also meet during the Materials Science & Technology fall meetings. Technical committee meetings are open to all TMS members, and attending these meetings is an important step toward deriving the full value of your TMS membership. These committees offer opportunities for networking, participation in technical program organization, and other important professional interactions. The "Committee Home Pages" on the TMS website provide an invaluable guide to the technical committees of TMS, and all that is needed for access is your TMS membership. You will find there contacts for technical committee and division officers, which makes additional information on committee or division activities only a short e-mail or telephone call away. Participation in the technical committees will not only serve your professional goals, it will build the greatest strength of TMS as a member-driven society, members serving members. When you next attend the TMS Annual Meeting, please consider which technical committee meetings you will attend. Then, ask your fellow members which they will attend.

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