

Get Involved: Louis Hector, Energy and Awards Committees

Kelly Zappas

“Get Involved” is a recurring End Notes feature that spotlights the work of TMS volunteers and shows the wide range of activities available through TMS. This month, Louis Hector, technical fellow at the General Motors R&D Center in Warren, Michigan, discusses his experiences as a former member of the TMS Energy Conversion and Storage Committee and his current work on a TMS awards subcommittee. For more on TMS volunteer opportunities, visit volunteer.tms.org.

Q. What were your first experiences as a TMS volunteer? How did you first become involved in the society?

A. My first experience as a TMS volunteer was on an awards committee. I first became involved in TMS as a volunteer when a university colleague recommended my name. I also worked with Warren Hunt [former TMS executive director and materials innovation director] in the 1990s, and anything that Warren is involved in has to be truly worthwhile. So I terminated memberships that I had in other organizations and joined TMS, and I’ve never looked back.

Q. You have been involved with the TMS Energy Conversion and Storage Committee. What kind of work have you done as a committee member?

A. The majority of effort on the part of the TMS Energy Conversion and Storage Committee is focused on setting up sessions at the TMS annual meeting. I was responsible for a session on hydrogen storage at the 2011 meeting.

Q. Has your work with this technical committee benefitted you professionally? If so, what benefits have you gained?

A. Yes, absolutely. Several of the TMS Energy Conversion and Storage Committee members had the privilege

of participating as part of an innovation impact team that worked to prepare a report to the U.S. Department of Energy. This meeting occurred on June 22–23, 2011, at the TMS headquarters. This meeting generated much useful information that was ultimately incorporated into a report to the Department of Energy titled *Linking Transformational Materials and Processing for an Energy-Efficient and Low-Carbon Economy—Innovation Impact Report*. The experience was invaluable for me as I was able to learn much from the other participants at that one-and-a-half-day meeting.

Q. In addition to your technical committee work, you chair a TMS awards subcommittee. What is involved in being a member of an awards committee? Why did you want to be involved in this?

A. I am now the chair of the Application to Practice Award, Alexander Scott Distinguished Service Award, Educator Award, and Leadership Award subcommittee. My involvement with this subcommittee allows me to meet other TMS volunteers and to learn more about the awards process. It also allows me to introduce an industrial R&D perspective to the awards process. The award selection process is often quite challenging since many (if not all) of the applicants are truly deserving of the award for which they are nominated. I have enjoyed reading

through the various applications that the subcommittee has received, as this has allowed me to learn much more about the achievements of other TMS members throughout their careers.

Q. How do you balance your volunteer work and your day job?

A. Much of the TMS-related work that I do is done on the weekends or weekday evenings.

Q. What would you recommend to other potential volunteers who wanted to become more active in the society?

A. I would certainly recommend to other potential volunteers to get involved with TMS. There is a tremendous support staff at the TMS office and all with whom I have been involved have always been very eager to help with phone support and during TMS meetings.

Kelly Zappas is a contributing writer for JOM.

For More Information . . .

- . . . on joining a technical committee, visit volunteer.tms.org
- . . . on TMS energy-related initiatives, visit energy.tms.org
- . . . on TMS awards programs, visit www.tms.org/Society/TMSawards.aspx