

in the final analysis

"It's summertime summertime sum sum summertime, summertime summertime sum sum summertime, summertime summertime sum sum summertime, summertime summertime sum sum summertime."

—“Summertime, Summertime,” The Jamies

Each summertime, the TMS Board of Directors convenes to discuss society business, update the TMS strategic plan, and/or support various organizational priorities. Typically, these in-person meetings are a couple of days in length. Some summertimes, they are held at TMS headquarters in Warrendale; other summertimes, they are conducted at a site of the president's choosing. Last year, 2014 TMS President Hani Henein elected to have the Board of Directors hold their summertime meeting adjacent to (and in support of) the TMS Diversity in the Minerals, Metals, and Materials Professions Summit in Washington, D.C. For 2015, TMS President Patrice Turchi sensed an important confluence of opportunities that could be leveraged by having the Board of Directors return for a second consecutive year to Washington. This time, they had an even more robust agenda. . . .

Congressional Visit Day: Several members of the Board of Directors and the TMS Public and Governmental Affairs Committee went to Capitol Hill to visit the offices of senators, representatives, Congressional committees, and staffers. Three TMS teams spent a day (and ~18,000 steps per volunteer according to our pedometers) on the “hill.” My group consisted of TMS President Turchi, Vice President Stan Howard, and Membership and Student Development Director Amy Clarke. We visited six Congressional offices and even met with two seated members of Congress: Rep. Raul Grijalva, who is the ranking member of the House Resource Committee, and Rep. Jerry McNerney, a Ph.D. mathematician who serves on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Both were interested in and sympathetic to the TMS message: We advocated for wisdom in crafting legislation affecting conference travel supported by government funding, for legislators to contact TMS for advice on technical matters (e.g., what's a critical material?), and for support of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Pan American Collaboration: At TMS2017, the society will host the third Pan American Materials Congress, with as many as eight countries in the Americas working to organize an event-within-the-event during the TMS Annual Meeting & Exhibition in San Diego. During the congress, participants will exchange technical perspectives, build collaborations, and hear of government and business incentive opportunities. To help this event resonate hemispherically, the three TMS presidents and I visited the Organization of American States to learn how existing relationships and programs in the Americas might be leveraged.

The Future of TMS Annual Meeting Programming: The heart of 2015 TMS Week in D.C. was a day and a half of facilitated planning addressing the question of where we want TMS annual meeting programming to be by 2023. During this lively exchange, the board adopted strategies for addressing such matters as how to level-load quality technical programming and other desirable functions throughout the entire week of the annual meeting; how to minimize no-shows (i.e., speakers who do not turn up to give their talks); how to increase industrial engagement in the technical program; how to engage our nonmember attendees more fully in TMS activities; and how to increase cross-cutting collaborations among our technical committees and divisions while also reducing duplication of effort. That was a big-picture and ambitious dialog!

Business Matters: The week concluded with a board business meeting. Among other decisions and discussions, the board approved the 2014 audit (we received a “clean” opinion, which is just right), agreed to sponsor Superalloys 2016 (no surprise as we've been engaged with this meeting since 1968), and greenlighted the plan to develop *Comic-tanium*TM phase 2—soon to be more super than ever!

How did the board end 2015 TMS Week in D.C.? By agreeing to meet in Chicago next summertime in association with the society's second Diversity in the Minerals, Metals, and Materials Professions Summit. Another great summertime call!

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The TMS leadership delegation on the House of Representatives steps at the U.S. Capitol building during July 2015.