

in the final analysis

“Everywhere you look out there [San Diego], everything’s just too dang pretty! I’m usually the prettiest thing!”

—Little Richard

JOM

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Arguably the man for whom the word “flamboyant” was invented, Little Richard is one of the greatest rock and rollers of the Golden Oldies era. His presence on a 1950s show bill guaranteed that the audience would “have some fun tonight” when he hit the stage and that all would go home with a smile. The fact that Little Richard once conceded that in some way San Diego could compete with him by any metric is fairly remarkable. I can believe it, however, as we at TMS think that San Diego is pretty special, too. We’ve held the TMS Annual Meeting and Exhibition in this beautiful and convenient destination three out of the last seven years, and everyone has left smiling and looking forward to the next installment.

So, how did TMS2017 compare to the 145 TMS and/or TMS-AIME and/or AIME annual meetings that preceded it? I can’t say with authority as I’ve only been to the last 33 of them. Within that limited context, I feel very good saying that TMS2017 was easily one of the best. How come? Well, . . .

- The attendance was our best ever, with effectively 4,700 members of the community participating in some aspect of the event.
- 3,800 papers and posters were presented after almost 5,000 abstracts were submitted—both records.
- Top leadership from 15 professional societies outside of the United States were present, participating in a pair of meetings-within-the-meeting (the 3rd Pan American Materials Congress and Energy Materials 2017) and engaging in leadership meetings with TMS officials to discuss additional international collaborations.
- The world-renowned Seven Springs International Symposium Committee, organizer of the quadrennial International Symposium of Superalloys, merged into TMS as a subcommittee and donated approximately \$140,000 of assets to establish a “superalloys” fund within the TMS Foundation.
- We hosted our first Sunday evening all-conference plenary session: Global Energy 2025 with speakers from the United States (Harriett Kung), China (Zhiling Tian), and Europe (Fabrice Stassin). Very helpful in assembling this program were the Chinese Society for Metals and the Federation of European Materials Societies.
- Bladesmithing was a wild success, with 26 remarkable entries being displayed. Earning the new \$2,000 TMS Wadsworth-Sherby Grand Prize, the winning team came from the South Dakota Schools and Technology.
- We had my favorite TMS booth—the Member Welcome Center. It was themed around old-time video games and spotlighted, among other things, our journals, upcoming meetings, the TMS Foundation, and engagement opportunities. Most importantly, more than 800 first-time annual meeting attendees stopped by to learn about the TMS membership. Our TMS community is growing!
- Our Public and Governmental Affairs Committee decided to go forward with the new Materials Explorers™ program, which is a high school outreach program that puts TMS members into classrooms to tell students about the field. The program will leverage some exciting TMS content, including the very popular Comic-tanium™ initiative.

The other thing that I liked a lot: The number of people who told me that they were first-time attendees and that they were delighted with the scale of the event and the number of high-level people in attendance. They all told me that they’d be back. I’m looking forward to seeing them, and you, at TMS2018 in Phoenix!



James J. Robinson
Executive Director

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Special guests to TMS2017 received commemorative coins to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of TMS as an independent organization.