

James C. Foley



James C. Foley

When it comes to professional societies, the more you put into your membership, the more you will get out of it. As we enter membership renewal season here at TMS, I encourage you to consider what you hope to achieve with your TMS membership in the coming year—and what steps you'll take to reach your goal.

When you receive the reminder in your inbox (or your mailbox) to renew for 2020, consider making a new year's resolution of sorts—a new membership year's resolution—that will help you meet one of your professional goals over the next 12 months. Make it a clear, specific goal of how you'll use your membership to further your career, improve your research, or build your network.

Nothing coming to you? Let me offer a couple of suggestions to get you thinking:

Reach out to TMS members who live near you to initiate an informal gathering.

Did you know that you can search the online TMS membership directory by location? Use this tool to help you connect with other members in your community. E-mail a small group of members who live near you and propose an informal meeting at a restaurant or coffee shop to begin building a network of colleagues and collaborators close to home. Pick a date and location, search the directory, and hit send on an e-mail. Maybe a half-hour's work could grow into a valuable network of local colleagues. The membership directory is found at members.tms.org and is available only to members.



Pick a technical committee and attend a meeting.

Maybe you haven't been a member for very long or maybe putting yourself forward for a position just isn't in your nature. Regardless, I encourage you to take this one simple—and pretty painless—step toward venturing off the sidelines and into the thick of TMS activities. Joining a committee is a great way to meaningfully connect with other members of the Society. And because technical committees are divided into technology areas, you'll be connecting with people who share your interests. If you want to see big results from your TMS membership, joining a committee is an easy way to get started. If you'll be with us at the TMS 2020 Annual Meeting & Exhibition (TMS2020), plan to join us at an in-person committee meeting. (Meeting schedules will be posted on the TMS2020 website early next year.) If you can't travel to San Diego next year, contact volunteer@tms.org and ask to be added to a committee roster. A complete list of technical committees can be found at www.tms.org/Committees.

Apply for an award that both boosts your resume and provides practical experience.

This one's for our young professionals: take a look at our awards designed specifically for early career professionals. A whole list of them is available at awards .tms.org and they cover a lot of territory. Many of them are part recognition and part learning opportunity, so if you're shy about putting your name up for an award, don't be. TMS wants you to succeed—and we want to give you something that not only looks good on your resume but actually enhances your skills, as well. You'll find awards that allow you to deliver featured lectures at our annual meeting, to travel to international conferences to present your work, to organize your own symposia, to participate in leadership development training, and to learn more about the inner workings of TMS, to name a few. Pick an award, mark the submission deadline on your calendar, and make it a professional priority to apply.

Show someone how much their work means.

Make this the year that you show your long-term mentor how much he or she means by nominating them for a TMS award—or maybe there's a promising junior colleague who you think could benefit from some well-deserved recognition. Most TMS awards nominations for the 2021 cycle are due April 1, 2020. Write that date on your

calendar and set deadlines to complete the nomination form and gather letters of reference by that time. It's the kind of thing that can make you feel proud to be a TMS member.

Share your expertise for the greater good.

If you have the qualifications, consider volunteering as an ABET evaluator or as a member of the TMS Professional Registration Committee for licensed professional engineers (PE). Both are excellent ways to give back to your profession by helping to set standards at university programs and for professional licensure. Learn more at www.tms.org/PD. Other opportunities include participating in our diversity and inclusion and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) outreach initiatives. Explore the Outreach section of www.tms.org to learn how you can contribute.

These are just a few ideas to get you thinking about how you can use your TMS membership in the coming year. So when you see those dues renewal messages in your mailbox, be sure to renew your membership for 2020, but don't forget to write down one specific way you'll *use* your membership in the coming year to benefit yourself, your organization, and your profession.

I look forward to seeing these resolutions bear fruit.

"TMS wants you
to succeed—and
we want to give
you something
that not only
looks good on
your resume
but actually
enhances your
skills, as well."

Give Us a Word Is Back!

Influential. Friendly. Reliable. These are just a few of the words TMS members used to describe their Society when we asked them to give us one word that defines TMS. The artwork shown here, created a few years ago, summarizes the generous responses we received from our members.

Think there's a word that's missing? Let us know on social media! Write down your word, snap a photo of yourself (with your word), and share it with us using **#TMSmembers**.

Feel free to be creative. Whether you write it on a whiteboard, in sidewalk chalk, or tattoo it on your arm, we'd like to hear what TMS means to you.

Perhaps *your* membership resolution could be as simple as sharing one word . . .

