

Membership Coordinator's Report - September 2010

The membership committee meeting during PittCon 2010 was an extended Executive Committee meeting held on Monday, March 1st (8:00 to 10:00 AM, Rosen Plaza – Salon 10); those in attendance were: Katherine Bakeev, Paul Bourassa, David Butcher, Jon Carnahan, Don Clark, Jim de Haseth, Peter Griffiths, David Heaps, Fred LaPlant, Ed MacMillan, Curt Marcott, John-David McElderry, Bonnie Saylor, Gloria Story, and Ron Williams. The agenda for this meeting was focused on our new website design.

The new website is the main connection resource for our members with easy access to the electronic version of the Journal, but it is also a “landing page” for non-spectroscopy folks looking for information. In this age of social media connections, having a dynamic website is crucial for member interaction and promotion of society events and benefits. It's a conduit for attracting new members and an educational resource.

First, all those present acknowledged the tremendous amount of effort that Jim de Haseth had invested in the updated version of the site. Thanks to Jim, we have a fantastic start. It is now time to prioritize the next phase of development and fund the work needed. At the meeting, top priority issues were identified: updating the SAS database with a new column for the newsletters, populating the pages with new content, getting the web store open for business, and enabling the search engine powered by Horiba.

The Executive Committee voted for a budget of \$6000 to add the newsletters to the database and to open the web store. Until our members can pay their membership fees on-line, a stop gap measure was instituted by adding a line on the membership application form for credit card information, along with a disclaimer clause, and the option to call the office to relay card information. Another budget of \$5000 was approved for the search engine work.

<http://www.s-a-s.org> should be more than a download location for the Journal and newsletters. It is up to all of us with access to populate the pages with up-to-the-minute news and information; to make it the one-stop destination for all things applied spectroscopy. What is needed is a bit of training on how to add content. Curt suggested that Ron learn first and teach the rest of us. Katherine offered to host a webinar for us after PittCon.

As of this writing, the newsletters back to 1996 can be accessed from the “News” page!

Our 2nd Annual SAS Day event, Sunday October 17th of FACSS 2010, is planned and ready for us to enjoy. We'll have free transportation from the Marriott Raleigh City Center Hotel and be treated to an afternoon of championship go kart racing at Rush Hour Carting. Between races, a delicious North Carolina barbeque lunch with an open bar will be served. Billiards, darts, and arcade games are also available. Not to worry, the bus will take us back in plenty of time to attend the FACSS opening mixer and SAS Poster Session.

I would like to welcome my **new committee members**, Don Clark and Heather Brooke, and thank Tina Battaglia and Mary Kate Donais for their service. Don will be a voice from our budding UK section and Heather will represent our key member constituent: our graduate students now hanging up their shiny new PhD diplomas!

Respectfully submitted,
Gloria Story