

Symposium Coordinators report

I have been working with Scott Bancroft in regards to the Cleveland 2003 symposium. Scott is moving along with the planning, he could use some additional content as in papers, posters and workshops. Encourage your Sections to both attend the symposium and contribute to the program. I know Scott has been working very hard to make this an event to remember. Dan Wilt is doing well with the Saratoga Springs 2004 symposium; he has his committee in place and is working on some original ideas that should help to spark additional interest.

I have been working with several people in regards to a 2005 symposium, however I would like to recommend Joe Gregar as the 2005 Symposium Chair as he has presented to me a good location and is done a great deal of planning. I plan to visit the site after the BOD meeting in Cleveland to verify suitability. The Hotel is the Schaumburg Marriott located in the Chicago area, they are offering a very attractive rate of 109.00 per night, and this is the lowest rate we have had in many years. It is very late into the planning of 2005 and I believe we need to get the hotel handled as soon as practical.

I have had conversation with David Wise to possibly host the 50th symposium in Corning 2006, however this is only in the discussion phase and there are many details that will need to be worked out. I am also working with Gary Coyne and the Southern CA section to host a Symposium; again we are in the early planning stages.

I continue to update the symposium information book to reflect more up to date information. This is taking much longer than I had planned.

Symposium Ad-Hoc Committee

I have not gotten as far along as I would like with this committee due to the demands for 2005 and future symposiums. However we are looking into several options and ideas for future symposiums. It would be helpful if the directors would poll their section members and respond with information on what the members would like to see or what might encourage more attendance at the symposiums.

We have started to look at the option of holding the national symposium on a BI-yearly basis, with the between years being covered by a larger sections meeting. One fear is that people may get out of the habit of attending the national symposiums and over many years decrease the attendance more. Or it could go the other way and increase the attendance of the symposiums that are held. I see benefits in having more material to present, and many members are already attending BI-yearly. This also doesn't address the income generated by the symposium, nor the loss of a major educational program in regards to the Junior and regular workshops. There are options for the education, however the income would be harder to replace. Most of the opinions I am getting are from different perspectives and about as far apart as one could get.

As I get more data together I will have a meaningful report to present to the board.

Ron Bihler