

Minutes of AVS/New England Board Meeting July 20, 2016

Agenda:

Welcome and Introductions
Treasurer's Report
Follow Up from 2016 Short Course Program
Report from Education Chair
Plans for Fall Event
Planning for AVSNE Board Elections
Conversation with Robert Grubbs (AVS Chapter Liaison)
New Business

Next Meeting Date: TBA

- The AVS/NE board meeting was held at 6PM at MKS Instruments in Andover, MA. Members of the board in attendance (as indicated by the symbol **) were: Cheryl Santarelli, Peter Somssich**, Dick Jacobs**, Jacques LaBrosse, Earl Ada**, Bob Childs**, Jim Whitten, Mike Connors**, Steve Vitale, Bill Trotter Jr., Doug Taylor

Welcome and Introductions:

Peter S. welcomed all of the board members in attendance. There were no guests.

Treasurer's Report:

Dick J. reported that AVSNE currently has a bank balance of approximately \$9500. This includes paying all outstanding bills for the 2016 short courses and the additional course income from AVS National's scholarship contribution. Also factored in the current balance, both short course instructors have submitted their receipts and have been compensated.

Follow Up from 2016 Short Course Program:

Mike C. reported that the short courses proceeded in a smooth and organized manner. Mike mentioned that he has worked with Kathleen T. from the conference center for 3 years now. Their familiarization with the process has allowed for a quick and efficient resolution to questions pertaining to the event's organization. The attendance at the 2 courses offered (General Vacuum and Atomic Layer Deposition) was slightly higher than last year, 14 and 12 attendees respectively.

Bob C., instructor of the General Vacuum Course, reported that he felt the courses went off without a hitch. He also mentioned that he spent a bit of time encouraging attendees to become AVS members.

The final financial results were a profit of \$4,400 for the short course program. All board members in attendance agreed that this result was better than the 2015 Symposium and Short Course program. The

2015 setup only generated a profit of ~\$2,500 and required a significantly higher level of organization, over a 6 month span. The general consensus was that AVSNE is not interested in returning to the organization of an annual symposium and short course programs.

Mike C. suggested considering moving the short course offerings to different venue locations. Two alternatives to Lowell in June were noted as a location in Hartford, CT or the Worcester, MA area (in cooperation with the NanoWorcester group). The board agreed that if no new location for the short courses was found, AVSNE would be interested in hosting the programs in Lowell again, particularly during the first half of June.

Board members thanked Mike for all of his work on behalf of the short course program.

Report from Education Chair:

Earl A. reported that he is currently serving on the AVS National Education Committee and would be involved in teaching parts of the Science Educators' Workshop at the 2016 AVS National Symposium and Exhibition. This year's event will take place in Nashville, Tennessee from November 6th – 11th. Earl also mentioned that he has 2 interested science teachers signed up for the SEW program's (A 2 day program) waiting list. In light of AVSNE's good financial situation, the board was of the opinion that it is willing to send 2 teachers to Nashville. AVSNE's stance is contingent upon AVS National agreeing to pay for the 2 attendees' hotel expenses. Earl will report to the board when he has submitted the teacher candidates as AVS New England sponsored teachers.

Plans for Fall Event and Beyond:

AVSNE is once again planning to hold a fall dinner meeting at MIT Lincoln Labs. Mike C. was asked to inquire about availability of a meeting room during the week of November 14th -18th for the proposed meeting. Once a suitable date and time is identified, AVSNE will begin its search for an appropriate speaker. Peter S. volunteered to give a talk on the investigation he undertook in connection with the Deflategate controversy at the Osram Sylvania laboratories, if no other speaker is available.

Several attendees inquired about any information regarding a possible repeat collaboration with NanoWorcester in 2017. The first collaboration with NanoWorcester took place in April of 2015; the event generated a lot of positive feedback. In April of 2015, there was a strong sentiment to repeat this effort in 2 years or April 2017. At some point in the near future, AVSNE plans on reaching out to them and inquiring about their interest level in collaborating on another event.

Planning for AVSNE Board Elections:

Peter S. reminded the board that AVSNE is required by our bylaws to hold board elections by the end of the year. The current officers were elected to serve from January 2015 to December 2016. For more information, Peter S. reminded everyone that the bylaws are posted on AVSNE's website. The board discussed the requirements to elect 4 officers to the New England Chapter of AVS: Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. All of the officers must be AVS members in good standing. In addition, these elected officers can appoint additional members of an extended board, for positions such as: Dinner Chair, Education Chair, Vendor Chair or any other positions they find useful to promote the AVS chapter. Those appointed individuals need not be AVS members. Nominations for the 4 officers must be received by members of the AVSNE Election Subcommittee by October 1st. An online or by mail election will be organized by AVS National, the results shall be announced by the end of December.

Peter S. announced that he has decided to be a candidate for New Hampshire State Representative from Portsmouth, NH. Therefore, Peter S. will not be a candidate for any AVSNE officer positions. As time allows, he is still willing to serve at the discretion of the new AVSNE board. Since Peter S. will not be a candidate, he is planning on organizing an AVSNE Election Subcommittee to solicit candidates for the board election. He suggested, pending board approval, contacting Bill Trotter Jr. and Doug Taylor to ask about their interest in joining the subcommittee. The board members seemed to agree that Peter S. should move forward with his subcommittee plans. Assuming Bill and Doug are willing to serve on the subcommittee, they will collaborate on a search for candidates interested in the open AVSNE officer positions. Peter S. volunteered to put together some informational materials in August; these will be used to inform AVS members of the upcoming elections. Peter will also contact the AVS National office to request the latest list of AVSNE members.

The AVSNE board also mentioned that current members of the board can contact any member of the subcommittee if they are interested in running for a board position.

Conversation with Robert Grubbs (AVS Chapter Liaison):

Peter S. reported on a telephone conversation he had with Robert Grubbs, AVS Liaison to the Chapters. The conversation focused on the recent activities of the New England chapter. During the 30 minute conversation, Peter S. and Robert G. discussed AVSNE's recent Short Course Program, past and future dinner meetings, participation in the SEW program, collaboration with NanoWorcester and AVSNE's attempts to generate interest in AVS activities in the Hartford, CT area.

Peter S. also highlighted the lack of financial support the chapters receive from the AVS National organization. The board receives excellent support from the AVS staff, however, frustration stems from the lack of financial cooperation from the national organization. As an example, Peter S. mentioned that various discounts and scholarships are applied to attendees of the short courses (Discounts include: Student Scholarships, AVS Member Discounts and Multi-Course Discounts). Furthermore, such discounts would make a lot of sense if all chapters operated as one financial organization. Currently

chapters have to raise their own funds, meaning discounts are actually being paid for by the chapters, even though the chapters have no input regarding discounts.

Peter S. used the example of AVSNE's 2016 Short Course Program, where the AVSNE chapter was required to give away \$3,725 worth of scholarships and discounts without AVSNE's input or approval. Robert was unaware of this practice and promised to look into it for all chapters. The productive and cordial discussion was appreciated by Peter S. and the rest of the AVSNE board.

New Business:

There was no new business to report.

Next Meeting Date: Sept. TBA

Drafted by Peter Somssich: July 21, 2016

Submitted by Bill Trotter