

Minutes of AVS/New England Board Meeting June 24, 2015

Agenda:

Welcome and Introductions

Review of NanoWorcester Event

AVS/NE Symposium

- Short Courses
- Vendor Survey
- Attendee Survey
- Status of Finances
- General Impressions and Future of Symposium

Planning for Next 12 Months

SEW Education at AVS 2015 in San Jose

Next Meeting Date: To Be Announced, Plan for Sept.

- The AVS/NE board meeting was held at 6PM at the Chemistry Department of UMass Lowell, Lowell, 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:

- Chair Peter S. welcomed all in attendance.

Review for NanoWorcester Event:

Those who attended NanoWorcester all agreed that it was a success and that the NE-AVS section should stay involved. It would be useful to have more details about how it was handled, the budget, etc. from Nancy Burnham. We are planning to have further discussions.

2015 AVSNE Symposium:

There was consensus that while in general the symposium was a success, it required a very large effort to keep it in the black and a worthwhile event for both vendors and attendees.

Short Courses

By contrast, the Short Course program, managed this year by Mike C., was generally successful, despite the fact that it generated approximately the same amount of profit as the symposium. The efforts needed to organize the Short Course program was significantly less. Attendance at the short courses was better than 2014, with strong participation for the General Vacuum course.

Vendor Survey

Five vendors answered the Vendor Survey related to the conference. Four were positive and the other said that there was not enough traffic and that it was too long of a day. Jim W. mentioned that he overheard one vendor talking to another that there were not enough attendees. Many board members mentioned that it seemed not all vendors did much to advertise the symposium.

Attendee Survey

Twenty three responses were received for the Attendee Survey. They were overwhelmingly positive. Some of the interesting findings were: 1) more than 80 % stated that they have only been aware of AVSNE for 5 years or less 2) There was strong support for both the courses we offered, and those that we had to cancel for lack of interest 3) Both regarding the presence of the vendors and the quality of the technical session, very large majorities found them very good and interesting 4) Less than half stated that they were aware of the dinner meetings sponsored by AVSNE 5) Of the respondents, 69% stated that the AVS is relevant to them professionally 6) Comments included, 'good job by AVSNE board', 'invited speakers were very good', suggestions that 'more talks should be coming from companies not just universities' and a suggestion to 'involve more colleges and universities early in the process to generate higher attendance'.

Status of Finances

The financial results (roughly) are the following. The expenses for the symposium and short courses were approximately \$19k. The income from both was about \$24k. Therefore, there should be positive revenue of approximately \$5k. We are still waiting for the accounting from AVS National to see what the final numbers are. Everyone was reminded that any unpaid bills from the symposium/short courses should be passed onto Dick J. Peter S. mentioned that he had requested an advance payment from the national office of \$16k, so the conference center and the instructors could be paid as soon as possible.

He also asked AVS National not to send a check directly to the UMass Conference Center as payment for our June 1, 2015 meeting. Instead Peter S. asked AVS National to send the check directly to Dick; he is the Treasurer and should maintain transparent control of our finances.

General Impressions and Future of Symposium

The possibility of just having dinner meetings or other lower stress/energy meetings such as the NanoWorcester event, instead of our annual symposium was discussed. Most agreed that this is probably reasonable.

Planning for Next 12 Months:

Future plans for next year were discussed. It was agreed that we should plan on a dinner meeting at Lincoln Labs (hosted by Mike Connors and Steve Vitale) in November, preferably in the first 2 weeks of the month to avoid the Thanksgiving holiday. The possibility of having a different type of meeting (maybe in Hartford) in April was also discussed. This might be something modeled after NanoWorcester, where it could have a couple of sponsors and a couple of speakers. Peter S. agreed to reach out to the two AVS members in the Hartford area who expressed interest in organizing such a meeting with us. In addition, Doug Taylor offered to use his contacts in the Hartford area to attempt to attract others interested in helping us with this undertaking. We should have some feedback by September.

SEW Education at AVS San Jose 2015 :

Our board member Earl A. has already received four applications from teachers to attend the Science Educators Workshop at the 2015 AVS National Symposium in San Jose, CA. One teacher each from NYC and one from Hartford, CT area have applied, along with two others from New England. AVSNE has always sponsored at least one teacher to attend the SEW program. In addition to being our AVSNE Education Chair, Earl and Peter S. are members of the national AVS Education Committee. Earl will be teaching one of the SEW modules at the national AVS meeting in San Jose.

Next Meeting Date: To Be Announced

Meeting will be held at Jim Whitten's Chemistry Dept. offices at UMass Lowell at 6PM

Submitted by Jim Whitten and Peter Somssich to Bill Trotter as Draft on July 1, 2015

Submitted by Bill Trotter on July 16, 2015