

# Editorial

## ASM International's Thermal Spray Society . . . How TSS Works and How You Can Benefit

### The Beginnings of the Thermal Spray Society

The Thermal Spray Society (TSS) was formed during 1994 out of the former Thermal Spray Division of ASM International. Mark Smith from Sandia National Laboratories was the final Chairman of the "old" organization, and Ron Smith from Drexel University was the first President of TSS. So what is TSS's mission and how do we go about accomplishing it? TSS's mission is to be the leading member-driven international society for thermal spray that fosters communication, information development, technology advancement, education, and scientific understanding. This is to be accomplished by serving the needs of its members and promoting the growth of the thermal spray industry and technology. TSS's vision statement is "TSS shall be *the* global source for thermal spray information," accompanied by the catchphrase "Your Thermal Spray Information Partner."



Richard Knight

### TSS Leadership

TSS is an affiliate society of ASM International and is led by a board of 12 directors, of whom the President, Vice-President, Immediate Past President, Secretary-Treasurer, plus the TSS Executive Director from ASM International, constitute an "Executive Committee," leaving nine other board members. Board members are elected following a rigorous nomination process and ballot of TSS Board members, committee chairs, and committee members. The nomination and election process is designed to ensure that the Board remains both balanced and representative of the major TS constituencies—academia, government and research, international, service, suppliers, and users. Once elected, Board Members serve for a term of three years and may be renominated and reelected for a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms. Up to three new members are elected, or reelected, each year. In recent years TSS Board members have increasingly served as mentors to individual committee chairs, thereby providing for a succession of experienced volunteers.

### TSS Committee Structure

The emphasis of what TSS does can be summed up rather succinctly: "provision of *services* to members, with a demonstrated *value* of membership, and generation of revenues so that future member services and benefits can be improved." Services to members is where the various TSS Committees come in—these groups of hard-working volunteers are the heart of TSS and, under the guidance of the TSS Board, are responsible for organizing technical programming; developing and delivering publications, information, recommended practices, and safety guidelines; and providing outreach to other groups and industries. The Committees report to the TSS Board at least twice per year, and, in addition, the TSS Executive Committee, Board, and Committees each hold regular conference-call meetings to discuss and review relevant issues. This all ensures that the focus is always on the development of new products or services, with value to TSS members, that will generate revenue for TSS to reinvest. As an example, we try to structure conference and workshop registrations so that the difference between "member" and "nonmember" fees is greater than the \$25 TSS membership add-on that ASM members pay to also join TSS—so membership pays for itself after just one event! Other individual benefits include discounts on peer-reviewed publications such as the *Journal of Thermal Spray Technology* and the *Handbook of Thermal Spray Technology* and discounts on self-study and video training materials such as the *Thermal Spray Technology* six-lesson self-study course and *Thermal Spray Technology* video series. Corporate benefits of TSS membership include exposure to the largest domestic and international thermal spray network, access to state-of-the-art science and information, opportunities to promote and market your company to a large number of customers during conferences or in widely read publications, and valuable education and training opportunities for your employees.

The TSS committee structure also serves as a fertile "training ground" for the future leaders of the society. For example, under the mentorship of Ron Smith, I started as a member of the Training Committee, became Chair of that after a few years, was nominated and elected to the TSS Board, was appointed as Secretary-Treasurer, and was then nominated and elected as Vice President. Under TSS's rules of governance each President serves two years as Vice President (also the de facto Chair of the Program Committee), two years as President, and two years as Immediate Past President (the de facto Chair of the TSS Nominating Committee)—a six-year term in all. There is no doubt in my mind that this activity at the committee and board levels has been a wonderful professional experience for me that has also been rewarding for my own students and institution.

### Volunteer Now!

For more information on TSS, including descriptions of the missions of each committee, course offerings, and the TSS structure please visit the TSS web page at [http://www.asminternational.org/MSTemplate.cfm?Site=Thermal\\_Spray\\_Society](http://www.asminternational.org/MSTemplate.cfm?Site=Thermal_Spray_Society). If anyone is interested in joining one of the committees, the above link includes the contact names of each committee chair. More volunteers will enable us to accomplish more and to provide more value to the members of TSS. I cannot emphasize enough that TSS is *your* society and that you will grow as it does. Volunteer now!

**Richard Knight, Ph.D., FASM**  
TSS President 2004-2006