

Open Letter To All ACerS Members

Your Input Is Needed For ACerS Structure Review Project



Dear Member,

ACerS is undertaking an important project – the Volunteer Structure Project – that will likely impact the future organization and structure of the Society. The feedback of every member is vital to the success of this project, and I'm asking for your input and help now and throughout the next 10 to 12 months.

Here is some basic information about the project:

- **Why:** The current division, committee and class structures are providing inconsistent member experiences. Some groups are highly-functioning, financially stable and actively supported, while others have far less impact and viability, and in some instances are completely dormant.

The scientific and technical environment is changing rapidly and the structure of the Society must proactively respond to these changes.

- **How:** Past President Ed Fuller and I have formed a nine-person committee representing a broad range of membership. The committee is chaired by Raj Bordia, longtime member of ACerS and active volunteer.

The committee is charged with gathering extensive member input, studying best practices and developing recommendations for the Board's consideration. They will thoroughly examine how members can best organize themselves for maximum professional and scientific benefit.

- **What to expect:** Over the next year, you will be asked to provide input using online forums, emails, surveys, informal as well as facilitated conversations, and town hall meetings. The division, committee and class leaders will be asked for their ideas, and they will be asking you for yours. Please participate.
- **When:** The goal is to have a proposal prepared for Board review at Annual Meeting/MS&T in October 2011.

Online forum: The Volunteer Structure Project forum at www.ceramics.org/community will be one of the main project communication channels. You'll receive occasional email requests to go to the forum and comment on questions and share your ideas.

If you prefer to express your opinions in private, you may use this email address: volunteerproject@ceramics.org.

Watch for more information and updates on this project in future issues of the *Bulletin* and online. Please participate and help shape the future of your Society. Your voice is important. Thanks in advance for your involvement.

Sincerely,


Marina Pascucci
ACerS President