

## Report of the Ad Hoc Committee for Vitality of the Glass and Optical Materials Division

The Vitality Committee held an open meeting at Stone Mountain, Georgia in August. Unquestionably, the current lack of vitality within the glass division was acknowledged by all those in attendance. But the lively and provocative discussions revealed a sincere interest - at least on the part of those in attendance - in identifying the problem and doing something to remedy it. The discussions spilled-over into a lunch meeting the next day, and will be continued at a retreat at ACS Headquarters in February, 1993. Although there were many opinions expressed, some recurring themes did eventually emerge:

- (1) The lack of vitality in the Glass and Optical Materials Division seems to be reflected in attendance at the Fall Meetings of the Glass Division, in the number and quality of the papers presented, and in the number and quality of papers published in the ACS journal concerning glass; all of these parameters have steadily declined over the past 10 years; the current state of the economy is exaggerating the problem, but is clearly not the key issue; and the name change to Glass and Optical Materials Division has had little impact.
- (2) Fortunately, there seems to be a consensus that the Glass and Optical Materials Division of the ACS serves a unique purpose for faculty, industrial and government researchers, and students whose primary interest is glass; it is, in a sense, the only National Society in the United States for workers in glass; nevertheless, many workers in glass - especially those entering the field today - are aligning their affiliation with MRS, OSA, Glass Problems, and both the Electronics and Engineering Materials Divisions of ACS; this is in spite of the fact that there are many topics concerning glass science and technology that do not fit into the programs of those organizations; one difference seems to be that the above mentioned organizations are identified, in part, through their regular publication of Proceedings; it is my own opinion that the absence of a regular publication concerning recent advancements in glass science and technology has limited our respectability and identity as the focal point for glass science and technology in the US; all the criticisms about the quality of Proceedings, in general, may be valid; but we, as a Division, can set the standards as high as we desire; Proceedings will never be archival, but they can be quality reports of progress, current activities and new developments; a consensus on the pros and cons of Proceedings, and how or where they should be published, has not yet been reached.
- (3) The glass division has lost the participation of the glass industry; in a technical sense, it seems that the ACS Glass and Optical Materials Division programs do not meet the needs of the glass industry as much as those offered by the Glass Problems Conference; and in a business sense, the people and companies who represent the consumers of glass, and the markets for the glass industry, do not attend ACS Meetings; altogether, there is little incentive for the active participation of glass manufacturers..

A menu of solutions also emerged:

- (i) organize a joint meeting of ACS and Glass Problems;
- (ii) hold a general session on "New Developments in Glass Science and Technology" at every Fall and Annual Meeting;
- (iii) advertise Glass and Optical Materials Division Programs outside the ACS;
- (iv) look into the possible publication of Proceedings in JNCS;
- (v) hold a retreat to continue the dialogue.

In closing, I would like to pose the following questions and request the response of our membership at-large to any one or more; a phone call, a scribbled FAX or an E-mail message - however brief - will be appreciated.

- How can we make our technical programs more appealing to the glass industry?
- How can we attract the consumers and users of glass to ACS Glass Division Meetings?
- Why have so many active researchers in glass made their primary affiliations with MRS, OSA, Glass Problems and other divisions of ACS; how can we attract them?
- How can <sup>we</sup> <sub>^</sub> be build for the future by attracting more students into current Division activities?
- Should we identify the Division with a yearly publication of Proceedings?

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