

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Glass and Optical Materials Division has forged a renewed commitment to better serve its members, to promote the national glass community and to strengthen the American Ceramic Society. This commitment was formalized at a Division retreat held at Society headquarters, Columbus, Ohio, February 5-6, 1993. The 25 representatives of industry, academe and government laboratories who attended assumed the responsibility of becoming an ad hoc committee charged with restructuring the Division. One recommendation made at the meeting was to prepare this document as a means of proposing major changes in the governance, operations and mission of the Division. In this connection, several other recommendations were endorsed by the committee:

- 1) change the Division to a Class of the Society
- 2) hire a full-time Business Manager/Executive Director of the Class
- 3) establish two new society publications emphasizing glass, i.e., a new journal and a new transaction series, and
- 4) prepare annual budgets connected to programs and activities of the new organization

The cumulative effect of these changes, if approved and implemented, will transform the present Division into a more visible entity within the Society with broad appeal to all segments of the U.S. national glass community including primary glassmakers, secondary processors, raw materials suppliers, glass users, academicians, scientists, engineers, industrialists, educators, and students. An additional goal of the new organization will be to interact with emerging technologies related to high performance glasses including fiber optics, nonlinear optical materials, sol-gel processing, etc.

The purpose of this document is to provide a basis for discussion by various components of the Society and to help obtain eventual approval of the proposed changes by the Division membership and the Board of Trustees of the Society. Among the groups who will review this document are the Ad Hoc Committee on Restructuring, the Executive Committees of the Division and the Society, and the membership of the Division. Upon approval of the recommendations outlined in this report, the new Class will be assigned the responsibility of preparing a full plan of action that incorporates formalized statements of goals, objectives and strategies. To date, a strong desire has emerged to bring about meaningful changes that strengthen the Division, and by extension, the Society as well.