

**NSSA Executive Committee
Conference Call Minutes, 05/04/16**

Katharine Page (Secretary), 06/02/16

Present: Mike Crawford (MC)
Doug Godfrin (DG)
Mark Lumsden (ML)
Katharine Page (KP)
Stephan Rosenkranz (SR)
Harlyn Silverstein (HS)
Chris Wiebe (CW)
Norm Wagner (NW)

Absent: Matthew Helgeson (MH)
Patrick Woodward (PW)
Ron Jones (RJ)
Megan Robertson (MR)

Agenda: 1) Adoption of minutes from 03/30/16 (KP/SR/All)
2) Date for next conference call (SR/KP/All)
3) Letters to Dehmer and Willy May (SR)
4) ACNS 2016 planning update (PW)
5) 2016 NSSA prizes/fellows/service awards (SR/ML/KP/MC)
6) Report on APS Spring Meeting booth (ML)
7) AOB

Discussion Minutes (by agenda item number):

1. Approval of minutes (KP/SR/All)

The minutes from 03/30/16 were adopted with minor corrections.

2. Date for next conference call (SR/KP/All)

The date and time for the next conference call was agreed to be Wednesday, June 8, at 10 AM Central Time.

3. Letters to Dehmer and Willy May (SR)

SR has drafted a letter to the Department of Energy expressing concern over the decline of neutron scattering facilities in North America. The letter will be sent to Cherry Murry, and copied to Patricia Dehmer and Jim Murphy. SR will share the letter with the committee and ML will post the letter on the NSSA webpage.

ML commented that ORNL's engagement with the BESAC subcommittee had been reported positively. No feedback has been received from BES at this time. NW commented it is very important for the committee of visitors to understand the recent decline in neutron scattering instruments. The scientific

community remains hungry for expanded access to neutron facilities, and is seen to be organized, vocal and clear. In this light, NSSA has an ever important role in uniting the user facility communities. It was suggested that a broader meeting should be convened, to encourage a meet up of the Department of Energy with the Department of Commerce on the long term plan for neutron scattering in North America.

SR reported that he had recently met up with Alan Bishop of Los Alamos National Laboratory. He reported that the Lujan Center is open for Nation Nuclear Security Administration program work. LANL leadership is still very hopeful that the MARIE project will be awarded.

4. ACNS 2016 planning update (PW)

PW provided updates on the status of ACNS 2016. All conference funding has been awarded. The next ACNS conference call is set for May 11. The conference webpage has been updated as planning has progressed and is now open for registration. It was noted by several committee members that room availability at the conference hotel has been blocked periodically, and there were several reports of attendees making reservations elsewhere. SR will send an email to MRS about this.

Fourteen students indicated they wished to be considered for poster prizes and there were a total of fifty-four unique requests for student / early career scientist travel assistance. The plan is to select two poster winners per night, and present poster awards the morning following each session. The poster prize announcements need to be listed in the ACNS program.

Tutorials are scheduled for Sunday. User group meetings have been scheduled for SNS/HIFR and NIST over lunch breaks. There is space in the schedule on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon if a request is made for a Second Target Station meeting. KP and ML will enquire with ORNL leadership regarding interest. SR still has not received a commitment for European participation in the scheduled meeting of neutron scattering societies at ACNS.

It was suggested that the Materials Research Society could be asked to provide a select few news broadcasts from the ACNS 2016 meeting that would highlight the importance of neutron scattering. KP will ask MRS if this can be done.

5. 2016 NSSA prizes / fellows / service awards (SR)

All formal award announcements have been made. SR will send the ACNS Program to the new fellows and find out who will be present at the Awards Banquet. ML and KP will work on ordering the awards. They should be delivered to ORNL. ML will ship them to the conference hotel prior to the meeting and MRS has offered to assist in shipping awards to awardee institutes after the conference. ML has templates and paper for certificates and will have them printed. It was noted that the amount of travel support paid to each fellow will need to be determined. It was suggested that generous awards be offered, and that complementary rooms could be considered. This will be discussed at the next ACNS planning meeting. MC will prepare monetary award checks and tax forms for prize awardees and send these to SR ahead of the meeting.

6. Report on APS Spring Meeting booth (ML)

The Neutron Facilities / NSSA booth at the March American Physics Society (APS) meeting was discussed. ML noted a good turnout and full staffing of the booth. Julie Borchers collected the sign-up list for RJ. RJ will be asked to update the society membership. ML noted the NSSA poster may need to be updated and reprinted. He will work with MC to order a new stand for the display.

7. AOB

It was noted that committee members need to be thinking about sponsorship and/or a booth at the Materials Research Society Fall Meeting. It was suggested that members talk with the community to gauge interest and identify potential opportunities.

Action items

Item Number	Person Responsible	Action item	Agenda date (mo/yr)	Agenda Item # for next meeting
1	SR	Letter to Basic Energy Sciences urging reinvestment in neutron sources.	05/15	3
2	PW/SR	See that poster prize award announcements are added to the agenda. Check with MRS on the status of hotel rooms / observed website glitches.	05/16	4
3	ML/KP	Check with ORNL leadership regarding interest in Second Target Station lunchtime meeting at ACNS.	05/16	4
4	KP	Enquire with MRS regarding news broadcasts at ACNS meeting for neutron scattering.	05/16	4
5	ML/MC	Print new NSSA poster and order a new stand for booth display.	05/16	4
6	MC	Prepare checks and tax forms for monetary awards and send these to SR.	03/16	5
7	ML/KP	Order award for Prize awardees and print certificates for Fellows. Arrange for shipping to/from conference.	03/16	5