

MINUTES OF THE FIRST 2009 COUNCIL MEETING
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Attending:

Nancy Ross, President
John Brady, Vice President
Peter Heaney, Past President
John Hughes, Past Treasurer
Darrell Henry, Treasurer
Mickey Gunter, Secretary
Peter Burns, Councilor
Carol Frost, Councilor
Marc Hirschmann, Councilor
Penny King, Councilor
Jean Morrison, Councilor

Visitors:

J. Alex Speer, MSA Executive Director
Gordon Nord, MSA Webmaster

Absent:

Klaus Mezger, Councilor

Note: Motions and Council action items are presented in *italics*; SoC = sense of Council, S = second.

The First meeting of the 2009 Council of the Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) was held at Hilton Americas-Houston Hotel, Houston, Texas, October 4, 2008

ITEMS

1. Call to order

President Ross called the meeting to order at 3:20 pm, Saturday, October 4, 2008, and welcomed the new members of council: Vice President (J. Brady), the two new Councilors (P. King and M. Hirschmann), and the new Treasurer (D. Henry). She, also thanked the incoming Past President, P. Heaney, and hoped she will do as good a job as Peter did.

2. 2009 Budget

The 2009 budget was presented and discussed at the Third 2008 Council meeting earlier in the day. A very brief discussion of the budget occurred and it was noted the society's finances are still in good shape, mainly because of conservative use of funds. For example, we routinely underestimate our income and overestimate our expenditures.

N. Ross moved to approve the 2009 budget included in the Treasurer's report. S = D. Henry. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Financial Affairs of the Society

J. Brady moved to approve the Treasurer to conduct the financial affairs for the society and the Executive Director to write checks and make other forms of payment and transfers on the Society's accounts as directed by the Treasurer and Council actions. S = P. Burns. Motion passed unanimously

4. Acceptance of committee appointments for 2009 Council year

N. Ross moved to approve the committee appointments, as amended, and contained in the report from the Committee on Committees made to the Third 2008 Council meeting. S = M. Hirschmann. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Appointment of Editors for 2009

P. Heaney moved to continue the appointments of Bryan Chakoumakos, Dana Griffen, and Jennifer Thomson as editors for the American Mineralogist, Jodi Rosso as the editor of the Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry and Monograph series, Andrea Koziol as the MSA Society News Editor for Elements, and Frank Dudas as the Editor of the Handbook of Mineralogy. S = J. Brady. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Authorization of mail and telephone ballots

J. Morrison moved to allow use of mail, telephone, e-mail, and Internet ballots whenever necessary and allowed to conduct the affairs of the Society. S = D. Henry. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Any Items Tabled from the Third 2008 Council Meeting

Dana medal: There was a continuation of the discussion (from earlier meetings) dealing with the locations for the presentation of the medal. There were some thoughts that all the medals should be presented at same meeting, and the concern that for some medalists there might be few attendees to certain meetings.

It was SoC to revisit this issue at the spring meeting.

Meetings coordinator: The above discussion on the Dana medal morphed into one of the importance of filling the meetings coordinator position. After some discussion,

P. Heaney moved that N. Ross occupy this position for the short term. S = M. Gunter. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Other Business

MSA relation to GSA: A. Speer gave a thorough synopsis of interactions that MSA as had with GSA in regard to GSA's wishes to try and bring all the areas of geology

(back) into GSA. In general, MSA favors becoming more involved with GSA, however, we most certainly have concerns on how to accomplish this without losing our identity as a society (and maybe members). This will be an on-going discussion with GSA where MSA might participate in some type of “shell division” for mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry, and volcanology. This would be similar to a GSA division, but it maintain the autonomy of any GSA Associated Society participating.

9. Future of MSA

The Fall 1996 Council asked that an agenda item on the future of MSA be included at each First Council meeting.

Outreach & Membership: In S. Sorensen’s Membership Committee report she proposes to expand outreach efforts beyond students to other populations of potential MSA members. Accordingly, beginning in early 2009, and with Council’s permission, she proposes

- to telephone people who have not renewed their memberships to find out why they didn’t.
- to begin to strategize outreach membership programs for igneous petrologists, volcanologists, geochemists and cosmic mineralogists who are conducting research in MSA disciplines, to see if they can be convinced to add MSA to their affiliations..

It was SoC to approve S. Sorensen’s proposals to retain members and seek out new members..

“State of Mineralogy:” At the first 2008 meeting P. Heaney expressed his concerns about our “state” and proposed to conduct a survey, which among other things, would ascertain how mineralogy is being taught at the college level. M. Gunter offered to help, as they would use as a starting point the list of schools that were sent the Dyar & Gunter textbook. Little progress was made last year, and P. Heaney asked N. Ross if he could continue this project.

It was SoC to allow P, Heaney to conduct a survey that could help in ascertaining the state of mineralogy.

Visibility of MSA at meetings: N. Ross opened the discussion of how we might increase attendance and visibility of MSA at meetings. Some ideas that arose from the discussion include: (1) Organize a session at GSA around an Elements issue. This session could be co-sponsored by the Geochemical Society. (2) Have “star” speakers give general interest talks at high-profile sessions (e.g. Pardee sessions at GSA). (3) Work with GSA and other meeting organizers to change format of sessions to include a lot of discussion. (4) Organize topical sessions at meetings, and recruit organizers who will work hard to make sure the sessions are filled with good speakers. Sessions honoring MSA award winners have been very popular. In addition, special interest groups of MSA should be encouraged to play an active role and MSA representatives to other societies can be proactive in organizing sessions that raise the profile of MSA at other meetings such as ACA, ACS, APS and MRS. (5) Have MSA lecturers give a presentation at regional GSA meetings

Also plan activities at regional GSA meetings that bring MSA members together, that spotlight MSA, and that bring MSA to the attention of students..

Action item: N. Ross agreed to follow up with these ideas about increasing MSA's visibility and attendance at professional meetings.

10. Adjournment

*P. Heaney moved that the First 2009 Council meeting be adjourned. S = N. Ross.
Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,
Mickey Gunter, MSA Secretary