

MER Division – ASME
Bi-Annual Meeting – Meeting Minutes

Date: October 17, 2012

Location: ASME Headquarters, 3 Park Avenue, Manhattan, NY

Attendees:

- Jovita Frederick, Mary Jakubowski, Randy Reagan, Mike Ireland (ASME)
- John Clark, Jay Lehr, Bob LaBua, Tom White, Len Grillo, John Norton, Bob Faia, Susan Raila (MER Division)

Agenda Items:

Item 2: Introductions (all)

All in attendance (see above listing) introduced themselves and their affiliation at 12:00 Noon.

Item 3: Approval of April 22, 2012 Meeting Notes

Faia made a motion to accept the meeting notes from the April 22nd meeting, and Lehr seconded the motion. All approved the notes.

Item 4: Newsletter and Website Update (White)

White noted that the newsletter got off to a rocky start, but the Summer 2012 newsletter finally went out, and stated that it will be easier to distribute it next time. There will only be a Summer newsletter.

White stated that the ASME website was updated. Phase 1 was completed, and Phase 2 will have a member profile and “groups” page. Frederick will work with the MER Division on that, and it should be rolled out in January 2013. White asked a question about the white paper on WTE, and said that it was not posted on the MER Division website. He asked how that paper could get distributed to interested parties on Capitol Hill; ASME will check on that.

Item 5: QRO (Norton)

An appendix is in the process of being developed for performance monitoring.

Item 6: PTC-34 (Grillo)

Clark provided an update, and noted that there have been on-going meetings and discussions but nothing new to report.

Item 7: NAWTEC 21 (Grillo/Clark)

It was noted by several in attendance that the NAWTEC trademark is held by three parties, until 2014. Faia stated that SWANA may have a hidden agenda to get out of the agreement with ASME and we certainly will give them an opportunity to do so by not signing the 1-year extension. ASME has been

negotiating with them, and is waiting to see what happens legally. SWANA has procured the hotel. In discussions, SWANA representatives said that the peer review that the MER Division provides isn't necessary, and they want to be more flexible. Since no agreement is in place, ASME was taken off the NAWTEC "Call for Papers". This issue needs to be cleared up with the lawyers, although it was noted that it seemed like it was a staff push to not split the proceeds with ASME. The general question was asked if SWANA would be moving forward without ASME, and it was agreed that the MER Division wanted a hand in the QC of papers, ensuring their publication, and getting 1/3 of the proceeds in return, not \$5K.

Copies of the MOU were distributed to MER EXCOM dating as far back as April 2012. The MER EXCOM was surprised and very disappointed to learn that ASME no longer accepts MOU's and waited to take any action, nor notify MER EXCOM of that fact, until October 2012. It was MER's recommendation to try to sign the original one-year extension agreement, to continue the relationship that had previously existed. Tom White confirmed that in our meeting minutes of April 2012, Elio Manes and Abe were delegated to expedite the SWANA/ERC NAWTEC MOU extension for NAWTEC 21 (2013). MER EXCOM also appointed Len Grillo as their "NAWTEC Chair".

Item 8: Scholarship Awards Committee Update (Chattopadhyay)

The top award granted is \$6,000, and it's a 50/50 split between the student and the school. This year's top recipient is from Purdue. The second award is for \$4,000, going to a Columbia grad student, and the third award is also for \$4,000 to an undergrad student. A discussion ensued on whether we should change the 50/50 split with the school. It was noted that there is a communication issue in trying to get more applicants for the scholarships. Jakubowski said that she would look into the scholarship link on the website, to see what could be done to make it easier for applicants to apply.

Item 9: Honors and Awards update (Egosi)

There will be just one WTE Facility Award, and a Medal of Achievement Award.

Item 10: WTER, IT-3, Bus for Plant Tour, MER Awards dinner (Castaldi)

The bus for the plant tour costs about \$950, and it was decided to cap the contribution to the dinner at \$10,000, and see how it goes.

Item 11: Papers, Abstracts and Proceedings (White, Clark)

As previously discussed, there was a problem with the ability to review papers and abstracts for NAWTEC, since no agreement is in place to have ASME be involved with the next NAWTEC conference. Clark agreed to keep up on the issue and to develop a Plan B if an acceptable agreement isn't signed with SWANA and the ERC. Currently, the papers for NAWTEC 21 are being submitted through the SWANA site.

Item 12: Tom Murphy Reinstatement to MER Division

This issue was taken off the table.

Item 13: Publicist update (Raila)

There was no update to report.

Item 14: Custodial Account Review (Raila)

The custodial account information was provided by Jakubowski

Item 15: Division Annual Plan for FY2013 (Faia, all)

The group in attendance reviewed the Annual Plan (see Attachment 1). There was a discussion on “out-of-pocket” expenses being limited to \$150, and that overages are covered by the MER Division. Various changes were made on the spot to the document, and the discussion continued on the \$38,500 in revenues and expenses, given the uncertain situation related to participation in the NAWTEC conference, and the accompanying revenues.

Item 16: Division Annual Plan FY2013 Appendices (Faia, all)

The Appendices were gone through by the group (See Attachment 2)

Item 17: Other Issues (all)

- **MER Logo** – The logo must be approved by ASME, so the (very cool) logo previously developed was nixed.
- **Power and Energy Journal**
- **Events Committee** – There is no events committee
- **NAWTEC 2015 West Palm Beach** - It was discussed that Chattopadhyay suggested that NAWTEC 2015 be held in West Palm, which would coincide with the operation of the new facility.

Item 18: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned around 4:30pm, and discussions continued through dinner, across the street.

Item 19: Dinner Meeting**Action Items:**

1. Follow up to the meeting resulted in a motion to successfully negotiate a new agreement with SWANA and ERC for NAWTEC 2013, since ASME no longer accepts MOUs and refuses to sign an amendment to the original agreement for a 1-year extension. June Ling was to represent ASME Legal, and Randy Reagan to work with her and Mary Jakubowski to reach mutual agreement with SWANA and ERC, to try to maintain MER Divisions 1/3 conference revenue split, in lieu of the \$5K option on the table.
2. Prepare a SWOT analysis for the MER Division.
3. Jovita Frederick will roll out Phase 2 on our member profile and “groups” web page in January 2013. Additionally, ASME will expedite why our white paper on WTE was not posted on our MER Division website, nor distributed to interested parties on Capitol Hill.