

Dear Member,

As many of you recall from my earlier correspondence, I said that as a completely volunteer organization the Materials Research Society would have many associated inefficiencies. This prediction has certainly been borne out by our rather modest start-up and gives greater creditability to my predictions than I care to have. The Society councillors and I are very appreciative of your patience.

We have had difficulty making the transition from an ad hoc founding group to an organizationally functioning society. We have not effectively tapped the potential resources offered by many of you who indicated interest in contributing activity. The council is establishing directions to enable local activity and contact and you will hear of it soon.

This is the first issue of the newsletter of the Materials Research Society. It is intended that the newsletter serve you in two ways. The first is to provide news about the Society and its interests. The second is to provide a forum for discussion of information and issues of generic interest to the materials community. This issue will include a leading materials scientists' view point of the need for this society, reports on membership and the first meeting sponsored by the society. This issue also includes a short article on a "Frontier of Materials Research" and announcements concerning future activities of the Society.

It is our hope that you will contribute to future letters through articles, announcements, and criticisms. In this letter of LOGO competition is announced for the suggestions of an official emblem for the Society. Please send your ideas.

Mark Myers, Secretary

#### REPORT ON THE SOCIETY

The first meeting sponsored by the Society, and supported financially by the Office of Naval Research, brought together some 200 scientists from all aspects of Materials Science.

The title of the conference was "Phase Transitions and Their Application in Materials Science". Subject matter was organized into general discussions of phase transition applications, definitions and terminology with the latter being very important because of the multi-material and discipline interests of the participants. Specific sessions concentrated on structure and lattice dynamics of phase transitions, optical applications, transitions involving changes in conductance, the glass transition, cooperative transitions in the solid state, transitions in macromolecular and biological systems, transport and kinetics, magnetic transitions and experimental techniques of observation. The proceedings edited by L. E. Cross, Chairman of the Conference have been published by Pergamon Press under the title "Phase Transitions 1973".