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The Origins of Neutron Scattering Society of America - NSSA

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The Origins of Neutron Scattering Society of America – NSSA

This year is the Twentieth Anniversary of the Neutron Scattering Society of America (NSSA). NSSA was founded on January 11, 1992 in the conference room of a Chicago hotel by a Steering Committee consisting of Henry Glyde (Chair), Jill Trehwella (secretary), Thomas Koetzle, Aaron Krawitz, David L. Price, Thomas Russell and Constantine Stassis (Membership Secretary). In addition to the Committee, John Axe (Brookhaven National Laboratory) and James Jorgenson (Argonne National Laboratory) attended as advisors to the committee. At this meeting the name “Neutron Scattering Society of America” was created, a statement of purpose of NSSA and a plan of action for establishing NSSA as an operating society was formulated, as set out in the items 1 to 9 below.

This founding meeting did not just happen: John Axe was instrumental in initiating the meeting and in identifying and selecting the Steering Committee. The committee was carefully chosen to represent most fields of science that use neutrons and to represent the different neutron scattering facilities in the USA in some way without selecting the facility management. Henry Glyde was nominated as Chair since he had just returned from Canada where he had just served as president of the Canadian Institute for Neutron Scattering (CINS). He also had no direct connection with any neutron facility in the USA at that time. The need for a neutron scattering society in the USA was identified in an editorial by John Axe in *Neutron News*

(Vol. 2, No. 2, 1991) entitled “Large Centers, Small Science” and in the Pincus Report to the Materials Science Division of the Department of Energy (DOE). Mike Rowe and Jack Rush from NIST, Roger Pynn from Los Alamos and Iran Thomas from DOE also promoted and encouraged the establishment of a neutron scattering society to support the need for major facilities and encourage the development of neutron science. The seeds of NSSA were germinated in several conversations particularly some involving Stephen Shapiro. The founding purpose of NSSA is set out in the first four NSSA publications (1992) [1–4] referred to below.

During the period January 1992 to February 1993, the Steering Committee undertook several key tasks to establish NSSA as an operating society. In point form these were:

1. Announce the founding of NSSA in *Neutron News* [1] and *Physics Today* [2] includes supporting editorials [3] and letters [4] in these Journals setting out its purpose and goals.
2. Create a membership of NSSA. This was done by direct mailing to neutron scattering scientists listed as users of CNRF (NIST), HFBR (BNL), HFIR (ORNL), IPNS (ANL), LANSCE (LANL) and other facilities, advertisements in *Neutron News*, direct calls to individuals in the neutron scattering community and other mechanisms.
3. Establish funding for NSSA. Funding of \$5 K from the NIST Cold Neutron Research Facility

based on deliverables to NIST renewable annually with further deliverables was established. Funding of \$24 K from DOE via BNL was set up, also renewably annually based on continued services provided.

4. Conduct a study of the Age Distribution of Users of US Neutron Facilities, a study requested by the DOE. This study document is available in pdf.
5. Prepare an extensive report for the BESAC panel on the neutron scattering community based on a survey of the NSSA membership and present this report at the September 1992 BESAC meeting. Portions of this report became part of the final BESAC report. This report to BESAC is available in pdf.
6. Respond to many issues such as establishing liaison with neutron scattering facilities, liaison with sister societies and responding to many questions and valuable suggestions from NSSA members.
7. Set up and hold the election of the first executive officers of NSSA. This was completed in early 1993 with 257 members voting in the election. The first officers were announced to the membership on 19 February 1993: President: Samuel A. Werner, University of Missouri-Columbia, Vice President: Thomas P. Russell, IBM Almaden, Secretary: William A. Kamitakahara, NIST, Membership Secretary: Constantine Stassis, Iowa State University and Ames Laboratory, Treasurer: Stephen M. Shapiro, Brookhaven

National Laboratory. A copy of the announcement letter to the membership is available in pdf. This election was run almost entirely by Jill Trehwella.

With a founding purpose identified, a membership established, funding in place and the first officers elected, the Steering Committee was dissolved in February 1993. The first executive of NSSA met on May 14–15, 1993 in Chicago.

Today NSSA is a major, well established society with over 1000 members from 26 different countries. Seventeen percent of members reside outside the USA. The NSSA website is <http://www.neutronsattering.org> where complete information on NSSA is available and on line membership application can be made. The current purpose of NSSA is to:

- Identify and bring together the neutron scattering community of the USA.

- Identify the needs of the neutron scattering community, including future requirements for instrumentation and sources and to represent these needs to the neutron facilities and funding agencies.
- To stimulate, promote and broaden the use of neutron scattering in science and technology.

To achieve these purposes, NSSA holds scientific meetings and schools, especially the American Conference on Neutron Scattering (ANCS) held every two years, the most recent in June 2012. NSSA prepares reports and represents the community to funding agents and facilities. It awards prizes, especially the Clifford Shull prize, the Sustained Research prize, the Science Prize for distinguished recent science, and the Outstanding Student Research prize. It elects Fellows of NSSA to recognize those who have made scientific discovery, technique development and promoted neutron

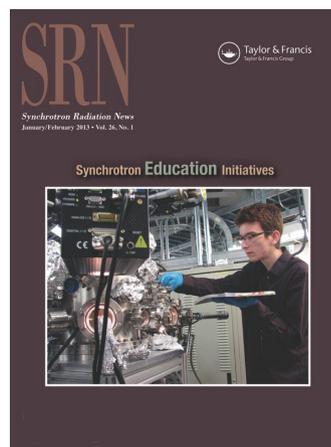
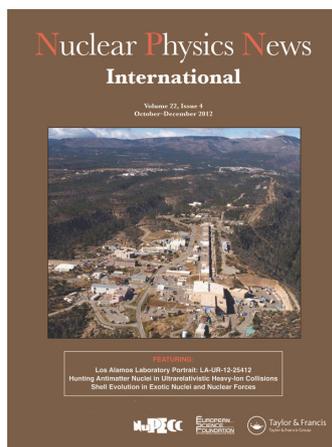
scattering over time. Today NSSA is a highly visible society that successfully unites and represents scientists from a broad spectrum of “small science” fields that use “large centers” for neutron scattering.

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