



Membership in the New Millennium

The author Alphonse Karr once wrote, "plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose" (the more things change, the more they remain the same), and that's a reasonably accurate description of the Society's membership benefits package for the coming millennium.* The desire to expand and improve Society programs has led to numerous changes in our meetings, publications, and online services. But as we plan for the next millennium, the Society continues to maintain certain fundamental principles that guide our decisions about ECS's future.

Perhaps the most noticeable thing from the second millennium that will *not* change will be the low cost of Society membership. The Society Board has held to the long-standing principle that membership dues should be kept as low as possible. In the year 2000, the dues will remain at \$90US for active members and \$10US for students. Despite increasing costs and an expanded benefits package, active member dues have not increased since 1994, and student member dues have not increased since 1982.

Another Society trademark has been to include a monthly subscription to our flagship publication, the *Journal of The Electrochemical Society*, as

part of the membership package. This has also been a long-standing practice dating back to the first issue of the *Journal* (which began publication as the *Transactions* in 1902). While other societies have given up this once-standard practice, ECS plans to continue it into the next millennium. The great benefit of this is that each ECS member receives all the technical, peer-reviewed content published by the Society, and authors get exceptionally wide distribution of their work.

Where other organizations have made decisions to reduce benefits and raise dues, ECS has remained committed to maintaining its impressive list of benefits, and adding more! In addition to the *Journal*, the membership package will continue to include ECS's two other serial publications: *Interface* magazine (the paper edition), and a subscription to the new electronic monthly, *Electrochemical and Solid-State Letters*. In addition to these outstanding publications, membership benefits will also include discounts on all Society Meetings and publications; opportunities for recognition through our awards program; and access to the "Members Only" section of our Web site, which contains technical and career information, as well as the Society membership directory.

Now let's consider some of the things that will change. The *Journal* has been getting bigger, and its lag-time shorter, while sustaining its historically high standards of quality. Furthermore, we will be offering the *Journal* in three different formats (paper, electronic, and CD-ROM) for the first time in the year 2000. All members will receive the electronic edition and will have their choice of receiving the monthly paper edition or a year-end CD-ROM. For people who

Benefits of Membership

- **Journal of The Electrochemical Society**—Society membership includes this top-quality, peer-reviewed, monthly publication. Each issue includes over 55 original papers selected by a prestigious editorial board on topics covering both electrochemical and solid-state science and technology. All members receive the electronic edition, and beginning in the year 2000, will have a choice of receiving the paper edition, or the new CD-ROM of the *Journal* and *Letters*.
- **Electrochemical and Solid-State Letters**—All members receive this rapid-publication, electronic journal, which publishes papers online almost daily. (It's also available in a paper edition.) Peer-reviewed, *Letters* is a joint publication of ECS and the IEEE Electron Devices Society.
- **Interface**—Members receive this quarterly magazine that includes topical scientific articles, and keeps members informed about the people, programs, and activities of ECS.
- **Professional Development and Education**—ECS provides the opportunity to exchange technical ideas at the Society's two major international meetings in the spring and fall, or through the programs of the 23 Local Sections throughout the world.
- **Publications**—Pertinent scientific and technological advances are available through the extensive ECS publications program, including proceedings volumes, meeting abstracts, and monograph volumes.
- **Opportunity for Recognition**—Outstanding contributions to the scientific and technological fields of interest to ECS are recognized by six major Society awards, and numerous other Division/Group and Local Section programs.
- **Networking and Contacts**—Members can take advantage of the numerous opportunities, both formal and informal, to meet with peers and expand their circle of valuable contacts. Members have access to a wide and diverse range of scientific and technical interests.
- **Members Only**—This section of the ECS Web site enables members to exchange résumés and job listings, join a scientific discussion forum, and access the ECS Membership Directory, providing easy reference to colleagues throughout the world.
- **Cost Savings**—Members can take advantage of exceptional discounts on all ECS publications, page charges, meetings, and short courses.

*Ed. Note: One thing that has changed is that long-time member Harold Read is no longer with us (see page 15). Harold would write to us, from time to time, to point out the error of our ways. In this issue, we've reprinted his Letter to the Editor (Fall 1998) on the subject of the exact start of the next millennium (see page 17).

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Pennington Corner

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will want both paper and CD-ROM, there will be a nominal charge of \$20US to cover the production and postage costs.

Although *Letters* is still a very new publication, it is also experiencing some changes. The "hot topic" format, abbreviated style, and incredibly fast lag time has generated a high level of interest from authors and subscribers, which has led to a rapid increase in manuscript submissions. Consequently, *Letters* has already expanded in size from 48 pages to 64 pages per month, with another increase likely in the year 2000. Similar to the *Journal*, *Letters* will be available in three alternative formats next year. *Letters* was developed as an online publication, with papers published as soon as they

become available, and we will continue to include the online edition in the membership package. The monthly paper edition or year-end CD-ROM is being made available to members for an additional charge of \$20US.

We could not offer searchable electronic publications without a first-class Web site (www.electrochem.org). The Society Web site has a massive amount of information that is available to all visitors, but members have an exclusive section with a series of additional benefits. We will continue to build new features and information into the "Members Only" section, adding value to your membership in the new millennium.

As the new millennium approaches, we wish you success in all your future endeavors. ECS has a strong commitment to help its members in those endeavors by providing a valuable

membership package: adding significant, desirable benefits and maintaining affordable dues. We sincerely hope that the expansion of the Society's membership benefits will assist you in your professional development and enable you to seize the inevitable forces of change of the next millennium. However, we do hope one thing remains the same—that you will continue to be a member of ECS. ■



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The Electrochemical Society, Inc.