



Hello Coblenz Members,

Pittcon is almost upon us and typically the President's letter appears at this time in *Applied Spectroscopy*. This year is a first as the President's letter will appear on the Coblenz Linked-In site, the Coblenz web site and as an e-blast but not in print. In doing so, we are doing our part for the environment while providing our members with more up-to-date information. This departure from tradition is an experiment and I look forward to comments regarding this change. The second official President's message for 2010 will appear, as usual, in the Coblenz Newsletter in the August issue of *Applied Spectroscopy*. That Newsletter will see a number of changes from the norm as Dave Heaps, our Newsletter Editor, is planning on revamping the format.

Let me share with you some important highlights regarding the Society.

- Entering 2010 we have over 1000 members. This is the largest membership in many years, and those who have paid dues since 2008 number in excess of 600.
- Over 238 members have joined our Linked-In site and share information on Coblenz and our activities. This participation represents approximately 1/4 of our current membership.
- The Coblenz endowment has recovered significantly from the effects of 2008's market changes. It is currently down by only 6% when compared with its 2008 peak.
- An analysis of members (in 2008) tells us that FACSS is the meeting attended by more of the membership than any other conference supported by the Society.
- With respect to the awards, the awardees for 2010 are:
  - Bomem Michelsen Award: Professor Richard van Dyne, Northwestern University (award to be presented at Pittcon in Orlando in March)
  - Coblenz Award: Dr. Tim Schmidt, University of Sydney (Australia) (award to be presented at the OSU Molecular Spectroscopy Symposium in Columbus in June)
  - Williams-Wright Award: Dr. Patrick Treado, ChemImage Inc. (award to be presented at Pittcon in Orlando in March)
  - Craver Award: Dr. Boris Mizaikoff, University of Ulm (Germany) (award to be presented at FACSS in Raleigh in October)
  - Lippincott Award: awardee selected but not yet announced

The Bomem Michelsen Award will be presented Tuesday afternoon at Pittcon and the Williams-Wright Award will be presented Wednesday afternoon at Pittcon. Following the Williams-Wright Award session the Society will be holding its annual general meeting.

Unfortunately I have to report another change for 2010 and this is that we will not be holding the annual Wine and Cheese reception after the Williams-Wright Award symposium. The reason for this change is that the Pittcon organization is holding a free event on Wednesday evening and we don't want to prevent our members from attending by holding an alternative event. For those of you interested in a Coblenz dinner prior to the Pittcon event, however, Gloria Story has volunteered to organize a Coblenz 'going 'dutch' networking dinner' for anyone who is interested. Please see Gloria at Pittcon or stay after the Williams-Wright Award symposium to join the group. Due to this change we are considering, for 2010, an event at FACSS or expanding our EAS reception. For 2011 we hope to re-instate the reception at Pittcon.

Prior to Pittcon you will receive another e-blast from Coblenz regarding the Board membership elections. I am excited that we have a great slate of nominees who will be able to provide Coblenz leadership and direction into the future. In addition, you will receive information on the FACSS and EAS sessions for which Coblenz organization plays a vital role.. These sessions are a direct result of the tireless efforts of Linda Kidder and I would like to take this opportunity to again thank her for her efforts.

Before signing off, I would like to make an appeal for more Coblenz volunteers to participate in the many Coblenz activities and for volunteers to help organize and staff the Coblenz booth at the conferences Coblenz attends. You can sign up for as little as 30 minutes of booth coverage and every bit helps. During those times you get to meet and recruit new members, network with existing members, and discuss Coblenz activities.

Last year after the Coblenz annual meeting, I took over from Mary Carrabba, as President. This year has seen some challenges and changes for the Society but despite these I believe the Board and Coblenz's many volunteers have positioned the Society to better serve its members in 2010. I look forward to my second year as President and implementing many changes for the Society to help grow membership and meet our continuing mission of Fostering the Understanding and Application of Vibrational Spectroscopy.

Sincerely,

Ian

Ian R. Lewis, President of the Coblenz Society 2009-2011