



SPIE

Connecting minds. Advancing light.

Notes from David Wick, 2007 SPIE Membership Committee Chair

It is a benefit of SPIE Membership to be able to volunteer for service on a Standing Committee. These committees, in concert with the Board of Directors and staff, help set Society policies and activities across the broad range of SPIE concerns, including Education, Scholarships, Symposia, Publications, and Membership.

This call goes out once a year a few months before the committees for the next year are chosen. In an era of exceedingly rapid changes in technology and other areas it is critical to engage a wide variety of volunteers for input into the governance of the Society. While not everyone who volunteers is chosen for a committee, having a broad range of people to choose from helps enrich the pool of candidates while raising the profile of those who express interest in serving.

It's no secret that volunteering is good for your career. Serving on a volunteer committee is a great way to actively enhance your leadership, communication, problem-solving, consensus, and team-building skills—skills that can help you professionally. It also gives you an opportunity to connect with other volunteers and senior Society leaders, and the experience, history, and contacts that they bring to the table.

In my almost five years of work on the Membership Committee I have developed a new appreciation for the amount of energy it takes to investigate, discuss, and move forward with change in regard to a variety of membership concerns. As is often the case with change, it can sometimes feel slow and frustrating, but it is this work that will help keep SPIE relevant for future Members.

I urge you to consider volunteering for an SPIE committee. It will help you become better acquainted with your Society and offers the added benefit of the satisfaction you get from giving back and making a real difference in the future direction of the Society.

If you are interested in volunteering, email <mailto:paulb@spie.org> and include your name, best contact information, and which committee or committees you're interested in volunteering for. If selected, you will be notified by 1 November 2007.