

TMS Spring 2024 Meeting Report

Held virtually from April 10 through 26, the Spring Meetings of The Masonry Society were productive with most TMS Committees meeting (several met earlier this year). More than ¼ of TMS's membership participated in the meetings, along with many non-members. These virtual meetings were the most attended spring meetings to date. The Virtual meetings allowed more individuals to participate.

The following provides a glimpse at some of what was accomplished at the meetings:

- During TMS's Board of Directors Meeting, Ann Guiberson was introduced as TMS's incoming Executive Director.
- The Board of Directors approved an aggressive budget for the Society's 2025 Fiscal year (which starts in August 2024). The budget includes new educational offerings, revisions to a popular design guide, a Masonry Educators' Workshop, a number of Liaison Activities, and raises and added benefits for staff. In addition, the Society is preparing for the Annual meeting in Portland Maine where a number of special events and awards will be presented.
- The Board of Directors approved the Meetings Committee recommendation to host the Spring 2025 meeting in Spokane, WA from April 10-12, 2025.
- Additional social media posts and marketing of TMS were also approved in the budget to help better connect TMS with its members in the coming year, while also marketing the good work of the Society.
- A new Award category was approved targeted towards "younger members". ACT and the Awards Committee will develop the criteria, applications, final name, and other details in the coming months. They recognized that a change will likely be needed as young is ambiguous and not a great describer. They are considering whether the award should be tied to age, years as a professional, or years participating within TMS.
- Initial steps to rename the "Junior Member" category is underway by changing TMS's Dues Notices and the Website to "Individual 28 and under". Later a Bylaws change consistent with this change will be proposed, although the criteria remain consistent with the Bylaws.
- Several recommended committee changes were approved including:
 - Creation of new Existing Masonry Standards Committee (EMSC) based on the successful Existing Masonry Guidelines Summit.
 - Renaming the Modular Unfired Clay Standards Committee to the Earthen Modular Masonry Committee (EMMC)
 - Renaming and rescoping the BIMM Committee to the Technology Committee (TC)
 - Dissolution of the Architectural Practices Committee (APC) because there has been no activity or interest in the Committee for many years.
 - The Executive Director Search Committee was disbanded with thanks as their work has been completed with the hiring of Ann Guiberson.
 - A Nominating Committee was formed to consider future officers and members of the Board of Directors. Their recommendations will be balloted to the membership late this summer.
- A proposal to host the 15th North American Masonry Conference in San Antonio in June 2027 was approved.