



## Coblentz Society Newsletter

December 2020

Welcome to the December 2020 edition of the Coblentz Society Newsletter. There's a lot going on in the Society; please make certain to read all the way to the end!

Our regular Newsletter Editor, **Savitha Panikar**, is on a break this month due to work responsibilities so your Society's virtual office manager is filling in.....

### **New Lifetime Members**

We are pleased to introduce our newest lifetime member, **Sebastian Riano**. Dr. Riano is a hardware failure analysis engineer with Verily Life Sciences – welcome to the Coblentz Society, Sebastian! Thank you for your support.

### **Elections!**

The Society's elections are currently under way. You should have received an email on the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month. Regardless of the closing date listed in that email, rest assured that voting is open until the end of December. Please take a minute to vote for the new Board members and treasurer that you would like to see lead the Society. There have been a few glitches with 40 members using gmail addresses; if you did not receive an election email, please contact the [Society's office](#) for a re-send of the link.

### **President's Message**

*Contributed by Ellen Miseo, Coblentz Society President*

In my last communication to the members, I described what had gone on at virtual SciX and the Coblentz activities there. We now have the experience of a virtual EAS to describe.

Obviously EAS is a much smaller meeting, but the Coblentz Society is a sponsoring organization. And they decided to do things differently than SciX. EAS had virtual booths and Coblentz had one which was staffed by Mary Carrabba and several Board members. Unfortunately, it looked like the attendees really didn't know what to do with the virtual booth and the people manning the booth chatted with each other for the most part. As for the technical presentations, I was able to attend a few and found them interesting.

Courses were taught over Zoom and the vibrational ones were co-sponsored by the Coblentz Society. I anticipate that we will see a similar situation in the spring since Pittcon will also be virtual.

We are working on revising the Society's image and the website with the same organization that did the Society's [promotional video](#) for SciX and we hope to have some things to show you by next spring. As part of this effort, we intend to include a section on resources such as books, videos, and websites. If you have suggestions on what should be included, please email the information to me ([ellen.miseo@gmail.com](mailto:ellen.miseo@gmail.com)). We are also working on a strategy to provide the Society's members with a benefit of access to the Coblentz spectral libraries.

One of the things that Mary and I are concerned about is that, since we have not seen you in person at a conference since March, those of you who usually drop by the booth to renew your membership may have not done so. Please renew - your participation in the Society lets us, in large and small ways, support the vibrational Spectroscopy community. Just go to [www.coblentz.org](http://www.coblentz.org) and click on the "members" tab.

### **Pittcon 2021**

The upcoming Pittcon conference will be virtual. What this means for the Society is still unclear at this point. We do know, however, that the Society's own **Ian Lewis** will be presented with the 2021 Williams-Wright Award for Industrial Spectroscopy. Ian's bio may be found on the Society's [Awards page](#). Ian has an outstanding slate of speakers lined up for his award symposium including **Neil Everall, John Wasylyk, Nobel Vale, and Andrew Whitley**. The symposium is scheduled for Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:30 AM (EST). More details to follow as the date draws closer.

### **Norman Sheppard Award for Vibrational Spectroscopy**

The [Norman Sheppard Award](#) for Vibrational Spectroscopy is awarded annually to an [IRDG](#) member who has significantly advanced the field of Vibrational Spectroscopy in academia or industry. This year's recipient is the Society's own **Professor Michael George** – congratulations Mike!

### **Amazon Smile**

Just a reminder - the Coblentz Society is now part of the Amazon Smile program! Make a difference this holiday. Shop for gifts at [smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7212847](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7212847) to generate donations for the Coblentz Society! 0.5% of your purchase will go to support your Society and its mission. Maintaining our non-profit tax status depends in part on donations from people like you.

### **Speaking of donations.....**

The Society's status as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization hinges on the amount of public support we receive. To overly simplify, in order to maintain our tax-exempt status, our public support must exceed one-third of our total support. Public support for our Society includes membership dues, grants, and donations. Our total support includes, among other things, our investment income. Wise investment strategies and fiscal prudence over the last 20 years, coupled with the solid rise in the stock market, has caused the Society's annual investment income to increase substantially, while our public support has remained essentially constant. As a result, our Public Support percentage dipped below 33.3% in 2019, for the first time ever. ***This trend needs to be reversed for us to avoid becoming a not-for-profit private foundation, a classification which carries tax consequences.***

How can you help? There are several ways. Renew your membership, become a lifetime member of the Society, recruit new members, give your students memberships for Christmas, participate in the Amazon Smile program, make a donation....and while we're on the topic of donations, many of you

work for companies with corporate matching programs. As a federally recognized 501(c)(3) organization, the Society is eligible to receive these matching gifts. A big thank you to those members who already give to Coblenz in this manner! So, as 2020 comes to an end (thankfully!), please remember the Coblenz Society in your annual giving. Just go to [www.coblenz.org](http://www.coblenz.org) and click on the “members” tab to get started in supporting your Society!

### **Coblenz Member Discount!!**

Peak Spectroscopy Software is offering a 50% discount to Coblenz members for their software!

As many of you know, Peaks is the next version of eFTIR, with a re-branded name. eFTIR is a legacy product now, still supported and maintained, but all new development is going into Peaks. For more details on the product, please visit <https://www.PeakSpectroscopy.com/>. Email [peaks@tds.net](mailto:peaks@tds.net) to request the discount.

### **We would like to hear from you!**

Your stories, information and, especially, feedback would add to the diverse perspective we aim at sharing via the Society Newsletter to trigger meaningful discussions at conferences (even at virtual ones!) or to simply be passed out for the public’s general knowledge. Our Newsletter Editor is soliciting ideas for articles on “This uses spectroscopy?!” to be linked to from the Newsletter. Please send ideas her way. Your submissions can be emailed to [Savitha Panikar](mailto:Savitha.Panikar) or [Mary Carrabba](mailto:Mary.Carrabba).

Happy Holidays from the Coblenz Society!

Mary Carrabba, Virtual Office Manager