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THE ADVANTAGES OF SWST MEMBERSHIP

Readers of *Wood and Fiber Science* are probably aware of the fact that it is published by a professional organization called the Society of Wood Science and Technology (SWST). Many readers are members of this society. However, less than half of the subscriptions go to members. This indicates that there are many readers who benefit from the publication of *Wood and Fiber Science*, but who are not yet members. I would like these readers to take a moment of their time to consider the advantages of membership in addition to receiving a personal copy of the journal:

1. You will be directly involved in fostering and maintaining education programs in wood science and technology. SWST sets standards for these educational programs, and, in cooperation with the Society of American Foresters, accredits them at universities in the United States. The society also has programs designed to attract young people to careers in the forest products industry. Examples are the 4-H program and the teaching modules that are being used in high schools. The society has also developed recruiting materials for use in high schools by forest products schools. Student members who attend the annual meeting may compete in a technical poster competition for cash awards.

2. You will become eligible after three years to apply for an international travel grant. The purpose of these grants is to enhance the members' international perspective and to facilitate networking with others in the same field. Several members have already taken advantage of this opportunity to enhance their careers through international travel.

3. You will improve your ability to network

through SWST's communications link between academia, government, and industry. For example, the society is currently involved in many organizations dealing with public education and responsible policy in the natural resource arena. A short list of these organizations includes the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRF), The Coalition for Education about Environment, Food, Agriculture, and Renewable Resources (CEEFAR), The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST), and the National Research Council (NRC). The society also publishes white papers on critical issues in education, science, and technology. Currently, a paper is being drafted on Environmental Implications of the use of Wood-based Products.

4. You will receive the bi-monthly newsletter, have the opportunity to participate in meetings, and provide direct input through committee activities in issues of importance to the forest products industry and the profession of wood science and technology.

In summary, membership in the Society of Wood Science and Technology can provide opportunities that can enhance responsible use of our natural resources and your career. Member dues are deliberately kept low, and there are no requirements to meet other than an interest in either the scientific or technical aspects of wood as a material. More information can be obtained about the Society of Wood Science and Technology by contacting the Executive Secretary or any of the officers listed on the inside of the front cover.

DUANE LYON

President-Elect