

GROWING IN MORS

By Kirk Michealson, MORS Volunteer Coordinator

Introduction

This article starts with the assumption that you are active in MORS and have volunteered to support the annual symposium, special meetings, communities of practice (COP), and/or one of the MORS committees. If you are just beginning your MORS experience, please see “Getting Involved in MORS”. “Getting Involved with MORS” discusses the variety of ways to begin your MORS participation. In this article we focus on expanding your MORS involvement for your and the Society’s benefit.

After your initial volunteering as a co-chair of a working group or as a committee member, two immediate avenues are possible: (1) volunteer for a leadership position (e.g., working group chair) or (2) expand your experience base by volunteering in another area (e.g., if you have been a working group chair or co-chair, volunteer as a committee member). In the following sections we will discuss opportunities in the Annual Symposium, Special Meetings, MORS COPs, MORS committees, MORS Board of Directors and lastly as a Society Fellow.

Military Operations Research Society Symposium

You can grow in MORS by volunteering to chair a working group or a component of the special sessions (e.g., tutorials, demonstrations, etc) or by expanding your experience base in the different parts of the symposium. To provide the opportunity for future MORS leaders to grow in the Working Group / Composite Group (WG/CG) organization, the WG Chair’s, WG Advisor’s, and CG Chair’s terms are limited to two years (unless there are no other qualified volunteers). WG Co-Chairs of the same working group at the previous symposium are preferred Working Group Chair candidates. WG Chairs from the previous symposium, current and past Directors, Advisory Directors, and MORS Fellows are preferred Working Group Advisor

candidates. CG Co-Chairs and WG Chairs from the previous symposium are the preferred Composite Group Chair candidates. If you have any questions on the Working Group / Composite Group organization, please contact the chair of the working group(s) that interest you or this year's WG/CG Coordinator, Tom Denesia (thomas.denesia@northcom.mil, phone 719-554-9680).

If you are interested in getting involved in other areas of the annual symposium but not with the working groups, please contact this year's Program Chair, Dr. John Hummel (jhummel@anl.gov, phone 630-252-7189) or this year's Special Session Chair, Don Timian (Donald.Timian@us.army.mil, phone 703-681-2745). Based on experience, interest and enthusiasm, the Program Chair will select volunteers to lead the planning, coordination and execution of the plenary session, security, logistics, information technology, and VIP program, while the Special Sessions Chair will choose leads for the theme and hot topics special sessions, poster session, and demonstrations.

Special Meetings

You can grow in MORS by volunteering to lead all or part of a special meeting or by expanding your experience base in the special meetings. For example, you can volunteer to be a Working Group Chair, Synthesis Group member, Synthesis Group Chair, Special Meeting Chair, and / or Bulldog.

If you are interested in participating in special meetings, please contact the Special Meeting Chair of the workshop(s) that interest you or this year's Special Meeting Committee Chair, Tim Hope (thope@wbbinc.com, phone 703-XXX-XXXX). The specific Special Meeting Chair (or co-chair) will select their Working Group Chairs based on experience in the working group subject area and their Synthesis Group Chair based on special meeting participation and experience.

MORS Committees and Communities of Practice

A great way to expand your MORS experience is volunteering to serve on one of these MORS committees: Audit, Education and Professional Development, Ethics and Professional Practice, Heritage, Finance and Management, Membership, Nominating, Prize, Publications, Special Meetings, Strategic Planning and Working Groups/Composite Groups, or one of these Communities of Practice: Deterrence, Experimentation, Irregular Warfare, Social Sciences, and Wargaming.

All of the Committee Chairs are members of the Board of Directors and selected by the the President-Elect during the committee slating process at the annual symposium. The committee chairs solicit and welcome volunteers to support them during the year. If you are interested in participating on a committee, please contact the MORS Volunteer Coordinator, Kirk Michealson (krik.a.michealson@lmco.com, 407-306-2833) and he will pass your interest on to the appropriate committee chair(s).

MORS Leadership

You've volunteered and contributed at the annual symposiums, a few special meetings, a community of practice, and/or on a couple standing committees. What's next? The next logical step to grow in MORS is as a member of the Board of Directors. This is a group of energetic, dedicated and talented individuals who collectively accomplish the work that makes MORS one of the premier professional organizations in the nation. It is important for Directors to take their MORS volunteer responsibilities seriously and realize that their contributions are greatly needed and appreciated.

The Board consists of 30 Directors – 28 who are elected plus the Chief Executive Officer from the MORS Staff and the Immediate Past President (both non-voting members). The Directors serve a 4-year term, but that can be extended if serving as an elected officer:

- President,

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- President-Elect,
- Vice President (Finance & Management),
- Vice President (Meeting Operations),
- Vice President (Member Services),
- Vice President (Society Services), and
- Secretary of the Society.

Each standing committee is owned by one of these officers. The President owns the Advisory, Audit, and Ethics & Professional Practice Committees. The Immediate Past President is responsible for the Nominating Committee. The President-Elect is responsible for the Strategic Planning and Board Structure & Governance Committees. The Vice President for Finance & Management owns the Management Committee. The Vice President for Meeting Operations is accountable for the WG/CG, Special Session, and Special Meeting Committees, as well as the next two year's MORSS Program Staffs. The Vice President for Member Services is responsible for the Education & Professional Development and Membership Committees. The Vice President for Society Services is responsible for the COP, Outreach, and Publication Committees. Finally, the Secretary of the Society is responsible for the Heritage, Prize and Awards Committees.

Board members engage in activities by getting personally involved in on-going activities, but also step forward with new initiatives. Directors try to attend as many Special Meetings as possible, selecting at least one annually to play a proactive role. They also pick a set of MORSS working groups / composite groups to get involved in during their tenure on the board. Finally, they participate in committee work – the conduits for getting MORS work done.

All Directors have a shared responsibility for the total functioning of MORS – the symposia, publications, special meetings, communities of practice, awards, etc. All Directors work with MORS members and the Military Operations Research community at-large to help recruit speakers and participants for meetings, write articles for PHALANX and papers for the *MOR* Journal, and solicit papers for the annual *David Rist* prize, and solicit volunteers.

The bottom line – being a MORS Director is fun, as well as being a professional growth experience! Being a MORS Director can provide one of the richest and memorable experiences in one's career. As Board members press forward to take on new challenges for the Society, their results go a long way to keeping military operations research relevant.

Now that you've learned about the MORS Board of Directors, how can you grow in MORS to this next level? You need to be nominated to the Board by two current Directors, but should be known by several Directors. A nomination form is completed by the nominating Director which includes information about you: current status (active duty, government civilian, civilian analyst), MORS background, Military Operations Research experience, and reasons why you should be elected. Several quality candidates are presented to the Board each year, therefore it is recommended to gain experience in all assets of MORS (annual symposium, special meetings, communities of practice, and committees), as well as presenting and publishing your work.

MORS Fellows

After their time on the Board, many Directors stay involved with MORS. Some stay on the Board as Advisory (non-voting) Directors, while others take a year or so off then are nominated and elected back to the Board ("re-treads"), and finally some are elected as Fellows of the Society. Because of significant, long-term contributions to the Society, certain individuals are selected by the Board of Directors to hold the title of Fellow of MORS. Fellows are elected for life. Selection as a Fellow is intended to be an honor and recognition of significant contributions to the Society. The nominee must have demonstrated long standing, significant, and dedicated volunteer service to MORS – the overriding criteria for selection. Expertise in military operations research or short-term contribution to the Society and its activities is not sufficient. Indications of meeting the criteria include, but are not limited to, some combination of MORS leadership, programs, administration and participation.

No formal responsibilities are imposed on MORS Fellows. Specifically, they do not constitute a committee reporting to any MORS officer. However, the Fellows constitute a valued

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resource for the Society. In the past, they, as individuals, have provided senior-level counsel to the Society. They have been advisors to Committees of the Society and to officers, Board Members, and staff. Their involvement in activities of the Society should be appropriately solicited as needed.

Summary

As with getting involved with the Military Operations Research Society for the first time, there is a similar, continual theme for growing in MORS: you can volunteer and contribute in the annual symposium, special meetings, and standing committees at all levels – from new volunteer through the Board of Directors to MORS Fellow. We hope you will seriously consider making this organization stronger by participating with us. If you have any questions about volunteering for the annual symposium, special meetings, communities of practice, and / or standing committees, please feel free to contact the MORS Volunteer Coordinator, Kirk Michealson (kirk.a.michealson@lmco.com, 407-306-2833), ask any board member, or the MORS Staff. We look forward to having you connect with one of our teams.