Summary of Activities in 2008

I. April 29, 2008 Northwest Section Meeting
   A. Attendees: 25 total, 14 at the dinner meeting, and 2 guests, our hosts from Measurement Technologies Northwest. The Northwest Section Meeting & Dinner held at Paddy Coynes Irish Pub, Seattle, WA
   B. Old Business
      1. Election Results were shared
      2. By-Laws - A sub-committee to be lead by Susan Matter will be pulled together to form our own section by-laws.
   C. New Business
      1. Tour of Measurement Technologies Northwest
         Richard Burke, VP of Engineering and David Heiss, Sales & Marketing Director hosted the group at Measurement Technologies Northwest where they presented Evaluating Heat and Moisture Transfer in Textiles; Principles of Operation and Applications of Thermal Manikins and Guarded Hotplates. The company manufactures thermal test equipment, including sweating and dry guarded hot plates, phase change material testers, and full/partial body manikins for measuring intrinsic properties of textiles and garments.

II. June 18, 2008 Northwest Section Officers Meeting
   A. Northwest Officers meeting via conference call, attended by all 6 officers minus Membership Chair due to travel
   B. Officers Roles & Responsibilities
      1. Officers Handbooks were in the hands of the officers and any questions were discussed and reviewed.
         a. The section is not responsible for fundraising money. We are accountable to cover our expenses. We can fundraise if we want to provide scholarships. Some sections do this.
         b. Elicia (section secretary) will publish meeting notes to AATCC headquarters. These do not need to be published to the general membership, but a summary would be shared at the next meeting.
   C. By-Laws Update
      Susan was traveling but Nancy was able to share some of her information regarding other sections that have shared their by-laws. Our by-laws will be finalized shortly and will be ready with a recap by Susan after her return. It will then be released to the Northwest section membership for a vote.
   D. Strategic Planning
      1. Previous years’ meeting notes were shared on strategic planning and compared to what has been done and/or completed. Suggestions were a mini symposium or learning series. We would need a topic of interest and a convenient venue may be a challenge to serve the section.
      2. Our biggest goal is to increase membership, which we have seen grow since the initiation of the section - from 26 members to 51 members. We now have two corporate members and will follow-up with one that had dropped and add one more.
         a. Susan Matter, membership chair, will drive the strategic development of membership.
         b. Outreach to colleges could be further developed. We would like to have more students participate and attend section meetings.
         c. Personally follow-up with members that drop to find out more about why they are no longer part of AATCC.
3. Increase technical awareness & knowledge
   a. Find a way to spark interest in potential members by creating a forum to discuss driving change in AATCC test methods (example: soft-shell fabrics or down, moisture management), pulling together individual brand test methods to present a unified list to the technical committees. Suggestions roundtable discussions for meetings on specific topics, creation of a technical supplement that could be taken to the AATCC Technical Committees. Some topics may overlap between AATCC and ASTM.
   b. There is not a lot of garment testing expertise and outdoor companies represented at the technical committee meetings,
4. Section Meetings
   a. Finalize dates for next 12 months as follows: Will meet quarterly; October 7, 2008 in Portland; January 13, 2009 in Seattle; April 7, 2009 in Portland; July 21, 2009 in Seattle.
   b. Topics, Formats, Venues
      Officers meetings should piggy back the section meetings to utilize time, tacking on one extra hour to the section meeting. A possibility of a social event was discussed. Subjects & topics of technical meetings were discussed and a wish list of topics would be started.
5. Symposium/Educational Sessions
   Suggestions of topics: Dystar Academy on color (would likely need to charge participants to cover costs); Q-Panel on lightfastness and weathering; color and spectrophotometry.
   Development of an elections steering committee & slate of officers for 2009 is needed & we need to determine an election format (mailing vs. in-person at a section meeting) which would be outlined in the by-laws.

III. October 7, 2008 Northwest Section Meeting
A. Northwest Section Meeting & Dinner held at Old Spaghetti Factory, Portland, OR. There were 20 attendees. Section officers not in attendance were Dana Parnello (Vice Chair) and Val Glenn (Program Co-Chair, Portland).
B. Old Business -
   By-Laws – Susan Matter updated the group on the status of the by-laws.
C. New Business
   1. 2009 Elections – Nancy PeBenito
      As determined at the executive meeting in June the new by-laws will specify officers serving two year terms. We will hold elections for 2009, which will start the 2 year term. Anyone interested in an officer position should contact the chair.
   2. In the new by-laws we would like to hold the last technical meeting of the year as the opportunity for in-person voting instead of a mail in ballot. We would specify a provision for voting if members cannot attend that meeting.
   3. Officers Meeting Update (highlights) – Nancy PeBenito highlighted information from the Officers meeting that took place in June (see above).
   4. Discussion of future events and meetings – Nancy PeBenito. January 13 is the next meeting, taking place in the Seattle area.
   5. After the meeting, a roundtable discussion on technical outerwear took place with participants LaShurya Wise from Nike, Cricket Guesman from Schoeller, and Wayne Skankey from Columbia, moderated by Kay Gipson.
      The experience of these outdoor industry experts in waterproof / breathable fabrics and garments was shared with meeting participants through a question and answer session.