

Component Group Websites

The provider ACS has been using to provide web sites to our various component groups (e.g., Local Sections and Technical Divisions) – webs.com – was acquired. Unfortunately, changes made over the time since that acquisition have eroded the ability of webs.com to meet our needs, and webs.com has not been a good solution for the majority of our component groups for at least two years.

Better web hosting solutions are now readily available at minimal cost, and ACS will not be renewing our current contract with webs.com.

ACS has never managed the web presence for any of our component groups, nor do we feel that is it appropriate to do so. Local Sections and Divisions get to determine what their web presence looks like. This change is a shift away from the platform currently being used, and ACS will no longer be providing that (or any other) platform.

What does this mean for our component groups?

- We are transitioning our support of component websites from providing no-cost hosting to offering tools that enable groups to identify and support their webmasters and web teams
- Suggested options for website creation and hosting are available at www.acs.org/webhosting, and as part of this transition we have begun posting additional information about developing and maintaining a web presence to help our volunteers think through this decision
- We also offer the free option of hosting your web site on the ACS Network if you think this will work for your group
- We will continue to support ACS component groups on webs.com through May 2019

We are here to work with each component group as appropriate to make this transition – which, we understand, may be a difficult one for some groups – as smooth as possible. There is simply no “one size fits all” solution to this challenge. Each component group has to evaluate their needs and pick the service that best meets those needs. Although we are here to help, we cannot make those decisions for our component groups.

We understand that questions will arise. We are posting answers to frequently asked questions as well as other information we believe will be useful at www.acs.org/webhosting, and we are still here to provide whatever support we can.

Please contact Christine Schmidt (C_Schmidt@acs.org) or Louise Voress (L_Voress@acs.org) if you have technical questions about the transition. Feel free to contact Anthony (Tony) Noce (A_Noce@acs.org) if you have broader questions about this decision or would like additional information.