

ORAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Council

Philadelphia, August 2012

President Bassam Z. Shkhashiri proudly acknowledged that he is a 50-year member of the Society and then presented a check for what otherwise would be his meeting registration fee to Executive Director Madeleine Jacobs in support of the ACS Scholars Program. Dr. Shkhashiri emphasized this excerpt from the ACS mission statement, "...for the benefit of Earth and its people" as the reason for the advancement of the broader chemistry enterprise and its practitioners. He then reviewed initiatives for the year and progress on each activity. Dr. Shkhashiri shared a quote from Nobel Laureate F. Sherwood Rowland as follows: "Isn't it a responsibility of scientists, if you believe that you have found something that can affect the environment, isn't it your responsibility to do something about it, enough so that action actually takes place? If not us, who? If not now, when?" He emphasized this comment as a call to action. He said that science and society have what is essentially a social contract that enables great intellectual achievements but comes with mutual expectations of benefiting the human condition and protecting our planet.

Dr. Shkhashiri said that ACS Publications and CAS are doing well, yet they face challenges: challenges from our competitors; challenges that relate to the economy; and challenges that relate to the push for open access. He reminded Councilors that ACS is a membership organization, and that it serves its members very well. Dr. Shkhashiri concluded his remarks with thanks to staff for their assistance during his presidential year.