

Tom Barton
Immediate Past President
Council Oral Report
March 25, 2015

Madame President and my fellow Councilors,

What I have been doing this year and what I will continue doing this year is working on things I got started in my first couple of years. I said when I was elected that I planned to work to enhance and strengthen our relationships with Latin American Chemical Societies. Although this effort must be a continuous one, I can tell you we have made great progress. My first suggestion to Lena Ruiz, president of the Sociedad Quimica de Mexico, was to produce in collaboration chemistry webinars in Spanish, and she enthusiastically supported this proposal. As some of you know the first of four such webinars for this year occurred March 18 as a result of the superb efforts of my Board colleague, Professor Ingrid Montes, who has done all of the organizing of the webinars' details.

I will be actively involved at many, if not all, of this year's ACS Regional Meetings. Firstly, working with Mary Kirchhoff and her staff in the Education Office, we will be working to incentivize the participation and involvement of high school teachers in these meetings and in particular the programs specifically designed for high school teaching. We are still open for ideas, but have already agreed to sponsor breakfasts and lunches as well as provide stipends to defray the costs of the meetings to teachers not living in the meeting city. One important goal in my opinion is to let these vital cogs in the chemistry enterprise know that ACS does care about them, and knows how important their work is to chemistry and our society in general. Please urge any high school teachers you may know to take advantage of this program.

At the 2015 Regional Meetings I will also be hosting sessions for industrial chemists to voice their views on how ACS could better serve them. I will attend and moderate all but one of these sessions. It is anticipated that these sessions will result in a white paper addressing how our Society can improve its service to our invaluable industrial membership. Again I ask your help in urging interested and motivated industrial members to attend and participate.

This effort should mesh nicely with our new collaboration with the American Chemical Council (ACC), composed of the presidents and CEOs of essentially all of the major U.S. chemical companies. It took me almost two years to arrange a meeting with ACC members, and it would not have happened without the efforts and connections of Madeleine Jacobs. This past November, and then again this February, at their request!, the presidential succession members and Mary Kirchhoff met with them to discuss changes in academic curricula that would produce a product better suited for the chemical industry. To my surprise, they strongly felt that the biggest needs were in community colleges. Thus, we have agreed to launch this year a joint task force to investigate ways for community colleges to produce the workers that chemical industries are having difficulty finding.

I would conclude by mentioning that all of the programs and efforts I have mentioned here will be 100% funded by my presidential budget, and I hope that you will find this money well spent. Madame President, this concludes my report.