

Report of the President-Elect

Thomas J. Barton

Indianapolis – Fall 2013

President-Elect Tom Barton reported that he has begun to design and organize symposia in his focus areas of Education, Energy, Environment, and the Public Image of Chemistry. A presidential symposium with the ACS Education Division will take place at the spring 2014 national meeting in Dallas, entitled, “Engaging Chemistry Departments in the Preparation of Chemistry Teachers,” and a workshop with industrial leaders to solicit “Industry Perspectives on U.S. Chemical Education” will be held in conjunction with the American Chemistry Council’s Chairman’s Dinner in November 2014. For the fall 2014 national meeting in San Francisco, a full-day program on the topic, “Solar Energy Conversion and Usage,” will be organized by Harvard professor Dan Nocera. Additionally, most of the speakers are in place for another symposium in San Francisco on the subject “Hydraulic Fracturing”. Provision is being made to provide expert and rational representation for the various viewpoints and concerns on an issue intermixing energy and environmental concerns. In the area of enhancing the image of chemistry, a half-day symposium organized by past president Attila Pavlath, consisting of five former ACS presidents speaking on the essentiality of chemistry in various broad areas such as medicine, transportation, and food, will also be offered.

Dr. Barton stated that he spent time travelling and speaking on the various problems facing America in trying to be able to provide the highest-quality science education for our youth.