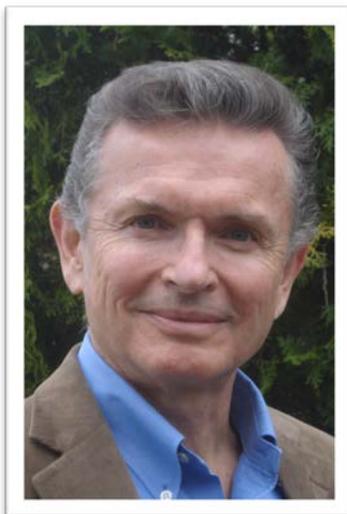




## FOR DIRECTOR, DISTRICT I



**THOMAS R. GILBERT**

**Northeastern University, Boston, MA**

**GILBERT, THOMAS R. *Northeastern Section.*** Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts.

**Academic Record:** Clarkson College of Technology, B.S., 1968; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ph.D., 1971.

**Honors:** ACS Fellow, 2011; Henry A. Hill Memorial Award, 2010; Outstanding Teacher of First Year Students Award, College of Engineering, Northeastern University, 2010, 2013; Excellence in Teaching Award, Northeastern University, 1999; Sigma Xi; Gamma Sigma Epsilon.

**Professional Positions** (for past ten years): Northeastern University, Associate Professor, 1985 to date; Acting Dean of the School of Education, 2004-06; Academic Director, Biotechnology Programs, 2009-11.

**Service in ACS National Office:** Board of Directors, Director, District I, 2013-15; Councilor ex officio, 2013-15; Committee on Public Affairs and Public Relations, 2014; Committee on Professional and Member Relations, 2013-14; Council Policy Committee (Voting), 2007-12, Vice-Chair, 2008-10; Long-Range Planning Subcommittee, Chair, 2008-12, Committee on Nominations and Elections, 2001-06, Vice-Chair, 2004-06; Committee on Meetings and Expositions, 1995-2000, Chair, 2000; Board of Directors Planning Committee, 2008-10;

Task Force on Election Procedures, Chair, 2003-05; ACS Network Task Force, Chair, 2014.

**Service in ACS Offices:** Member ACS since 1968. *Northeastern Section:* Analytical Group Chair, 1983-86; Alternate Councilor, 1987-89; Chair, 1988; Chair-Elect, 1987; Nominations Committee Chair, 1989; Long-Range Planning Committee Chair, 1989; Councilor, 1990-2013; Centennial Celebration Program Chair, 1998. *Northeast Regional Meeting:* General Chair, 1993. *Division of Analytical Chemistry: 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Symposium on Analytical Chemistry*, Co-Chair Organizing Committee, 1993.

**Member:** *ACS Divisions:* Analytical Chemistry; and Chemical Education.

**Related Activities:** ACS, Education Division, Examinations Institute, 2000 Analytical Chemistry Examination Committee, 1998-00; New England Aquarium, Associate Director, Research, 1977-81; International Symposia on High Performance Capillary Electrophoresis, Vice-Chair Organizing Committees, 1993-96, 1998, and 1999; Published 45 journal articles and two general chemistry textbooks (in their 4<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> editions), holds three patents.

## STATEMENT

*The following statement was provided by the candidate for the Council Agenda Book for the ACS National Meeting in Denver, CO. Each candidate will provide a statement for publication in C&EN in September 2015, which will also be accessible from here. The statements of the candidates represent their opinions and do not necessarily represent the views of the ACS.*

I welcome this opportunity to describe what I have done during my 2 years as a member of the Board of Directors from District I and what I hope to do if re-elected.

**Personalized Communications.** When I ran for the Board in 2012, I proposed that all ACS members have access to a personalized communications system that would enhance the exchange of information and ideas among members and between them and their local sections, division and national ACS offices. With this system, members would have their own web pages with links to ACS programs of particular interest to them and to colleagues with whom they were collaborating on ACS-sponsored programs and projects. They would also have access to the results of recently published work in their research area, including, for example, the results of SciFinder searches, articles in ACS journals, Presentations on Demand, and presentations at upcoming national, divisional, and regional meetings.

As 2015 begins, I am very pleased (and proud) to point out that an ACS personalized communication platform will soon be a reality. This year ACS is launching *ACS Next*, which will feature much of the functionality described above. It will enhance the way ACS and its members interact with each other and, I believe, enhance the value of ACS membership. The development of *ACS Next* has been overseen by the Board Committee on Professional and Member Relations (P&MR), its Subcommittee on Web Strategy and Innovation (WSI), and, during 2014, by the ACS Network Task Force. I have served on P&MR and WSI since joining the Board, and last year I chaired the task force and presented its recommendations to the

Board. Those recommendations were approved by the Board and are being incorporated into *ACS Next*.

**Promoting the Chemistry Enterprise.** Another of my 2012 goals was to make ACS an even stronger advocate for investment in scientific research and development. Last year I engaged in ACS's lobbying efforts on Capitol Hill and experienced the frustration of advocating for worthwhile legislation before a largely dysfunctional Congress. I have come to better appreciate the need for ACS members to reach out to the general public – to help others understand what we do and how the chemistry enterprise improves their lives. With that understanding, our friends and neighbors may help us elect officials who understand the value of science and technology, and who will fund government-sponsored research, and – through the permanent R&D tax credits that Congress failed to pass last year – encourage investments in long-term corporate research that will create jobs and grow the American economy.

**Regional Resources / Local Action.** On a weekend in November, 2014, a unique strategic planning workshop took place near Albany, NY, organized by the executive committee of the ACS Northeast Regional Meeting. Workshop participants (there were 11 of us representing nine ACS local sections and the Board of Directors) set goals and strategies for achieving those goals that focused on improving the quality of regional meetings and their value to those who organize and attend them. We also planned new programs that would be funded regionally but offered locally through ACS local sections and clusters of sections. The success of this initiative could have a major impact on the range of activities that local sections, especially smaller ones, will be able to offer their members.

**Education and Workforce Development.** ACS has a key role to play in developing a workforce that can fill the chemistry R&D jobs that are available today and that will be tomorrow. The nature of these jobs and the skills they require continue to evolve as the boundaries fade away that once separated chemistry from biology, physics, the health sciences and other fields. The inherently interdisciplinary nature of many of these jobs must be reflected in how chemists are educated. Actually, this education has to start early – in K-12 classrooms – with teachers whose students experience the dynamism of scientific inquiry and gain an appreciation of *how* we scientists know what we know. The Board of Directors took a major step in support of these teachers last year when we approved the launch of the American Association of Chemistry Teachers. I supported the AACT proposal even before joining the Board, and look forward to working with elementary and middle school science teachers and high school chemistry teachers as they create learning activities that are both content-rich and that share the sense of investigation and discovery that we chemists find so rewarding.