



Green Mountain Local Section of the American Chemical Society

email:

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website:

<http://membership.acs.org/g/greenmt>

Officers 2009

Chair..... Fiona Case
Chair-Elect..... Open
Secretary..... Michele Johnson
Treasurer..... Beth Medeiros
Councilor..... Willem Leenstra
Alternate Councilor..... Martin Case

Committee Chairs

Awards..... Michele Johnson
PR/Web Master..... Fiona Case
Silver Circle..... Irv Goldman
Gov't Affairs..... Sarah Locknar
Newsletter Editor... Willem Leenstra

Upcoming Events

May 2009 – Stay tuned for a possible end-of-the-year visit to a local winery.

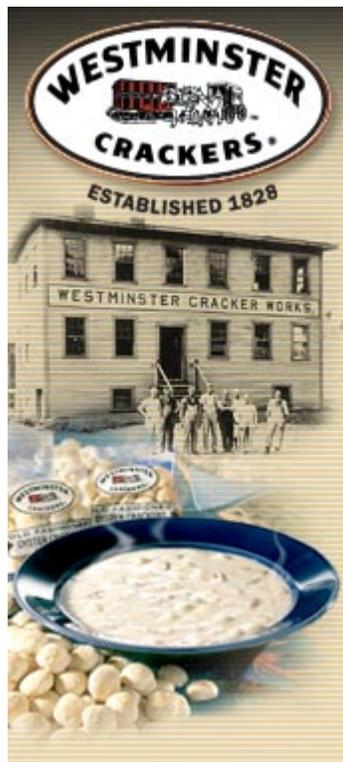


ACS website: www.Chemistry.org

GMLS April Newsletter

“Crackers”

Date: Thursday, April 16, 2009
Time: Guided tour at 6:00 PM; dinner to follow



Speaker: John O'Neill

John O'Neil is one of the chemists who support and maintain quality at this historic, yet modern, production facility. Westminster Cracker Company was established in 1828. Their firm and flaky product proudly displays the “Baked in Vermont” tag-line on its packaging. Come on this tour for a unique look at the role of chemistry in "The best crackers you've ever eaten" [TM].

Location: Westminster Cracker Company
1 Scale Avenue
Rutland, Vermont

Dinner: Table 24
24 Wales Street
Rutland, Vermont

If you wish to join us for dinner after the talk/tour, please RSVP Beth Medeiros at beth.medeiros@omya.com by Wednesday, 4/15/2009. **Directions** to Westminster are on page 2.

Directions to Westminster Cracker Company, and to Table 24 Restaurant

Westminster Cracker Co. from the north: Going south on Route 7, at 0.8 miles south of where Route 4 first joins Route 7, take a right onto Park St. Take the immediate next right, Porter Pl., which after the first intersection turns into Scale Ave. Look for Building 11 (near 3 silos).

Westminster Cracker Co. from the south: Going north on Route 7, at 1.3 miles north of where Route 4 first joins Route 7, take a right onto Park St. Take the immediate next right, Porter Pl., which after the first intersection turns into Scale Ave. Look for Building 11 (near 3 silos).

To the restaurant from Westminster: Head out northwest on Scale Ave., turn left at Strongs Ave., and then 0.3 miles later take a right onto Wales Street. The restaurant is on your right 0.2 miles later.

Message from Our Section Chair, Fiona Case



A belated Happy New Year to you all! After our traditional winter break the Green Mountain Local Section is planning an exciting program of activities for 2009. Our first event was the Vermont Math and Science Fair held at Norwich University.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to judge the chemistry projects. Our next event is a plant tour of the Westminster Cracker factory in Rutland on Thursday April 16th, followed by dinner at Table 24. Plant tours are always fascinating - they give us a unique opportunity to learn about the companies in our state and about the role chemistry plays in their operations. Even if you live in the northern end of Vermont this meeting is well worth the drive!

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the 2009 ACS Green Mountain Local Section Executive Committee: I am returning for a final year as your chair, Michele Johnson is our chair-elect, Jody Chamberlain is our new secretary, Willem Leenstra is our councilor and representative at ACS National Meetings, Martin Case is our alternate councilor, and Beth Medeiros is our treasurer. You will have plenty of opportunities to meet all of us at local section events during the year. We also have several other active committees including Government Affairs (headed by Sarah Locknar), Awards (headed by Michele Johnson), and a new group: the ACS Silver Circle, headed by Irving Goldman. We will feature information about these groups in future newsletters. This is an active local section, we are always open to new ideas, and very much encourage all Vermont chemists and chemistry enthusiasts to participate in our activities and to get involved in your ACS local section!

Vermont State Science and Mathematics Fair

As one of its regular activities, our Local Section participated in the Vermont State Science and Mathematics Fair which was held at Norwich University, on Saturday, March 28, 2009. The experienced team of judges consisted of Green Mountain Local Section officers Fiona Case, Martin Case, and Willem Leenstra.

Our top Green Mountain Local Section award is accompanied by a \$100 prize, and was won by Brian Ribbans, a twelfth-grade student at Mount St. Joseph Academy in Rutland. His project was a study of "The Purification of Waste Vegetable Oil into Biodiesel".



Brian Ribbans

Second place (high school division) is an award that comes with a \$50 prize. Alex Drost, a tenth-grade student at Windsor High School won with his entry entitled "The Effect of Conductivity on the Electrolysis of Water".



Alex Drost

Our second place winner in the middle school division was Meghan Lavoie, an eighth-grade student at Mater Christi School in Burlington who submitted a project on "Jell-O or Gel-No?". This award is also accompanied by a \$50 prize.



Fiona Case congratulating Meghan Lavoie

We congratulate this year's winners on their prowess as budding young chemists!

Employment Opportunity

Mylan Technologies, Inc. of St. Albans is looking for a chemist to work the 2nd shift in their quality control department. Mylan is a world leader in providing consumers with an extensive line of high-quality, affordable, and effective pharmaceutical products in a variety of traditional and innovative dosage forms. A minimum of 1 year of experience is required, and a B.S. in chemistry or related field is preferred. Details and an on-line application form for this position, and others, can be found at <http://www.mylancareers.com/> (the company does not accept unsolicited job applications).

Report from our Councilor, Willem Leenstra



I attended the Council meeting at the Spring National Meeting just held in Salt Lake City, Utah, March 22-26, 2009. What follows are the highlights and the more interesting announcements from that meeting. If you would like a more complete report and/or a report of the proceedings of the Board of Directors, I would be happy to send it to you electronically; please contact me at the following email address: willem.leenstra@uvm.edu.

Election Results

By electronic ballot, the Council selected Nancy B. Jackson and Cheryl A. Martin as candidates for 2010 President-Elect. These two candidates, along with any candidates selected via petitions, will stand for election in the Fall National Election.

Our District I Director, Anne O'Brien, is now in her last term on the Board of Directors. After receiving the names of four candidates to run for that seat from N&E, Councilors voted to put forward the names of Richard Cobb and Neil Jespersen. They will be on the ballots that all of our GMLS members will receive in the beginning of October, 2009. Richard Cobb's name should be known to those who attended NERM2008 as the Chair of the Awards Committee.

Petitions for Bylaw Changes

As its only noteworthy item, the Council received one petition for consideration: the Petition on Election Timelines 2009. According to the proposing committee (N&E), this petition presents election procedure refinements in the dates on which names of candidates for elected officers must be presented, as well their consequent timelines. Action is expected on the petition at the fall Council meeting.

2009 Member Dues

After a lengthy discussion and rejection of two amendments, the Council VOTED to set the member dues for 2010 at the fully escalated rate of \$145. This rate is established pursuant to an inflation-adjustment formula in the ACS Constitution and Bylaws.

The Society's Finances

The Society ended 2007 with a net from operations of \$9.6 million, which was \$2.2 million favorable to the approved budget. This was based on total revenues of \$444.2 million and total expenses of \$434.6 million. The Society ended the year in full compliance with the Board-established financial guidelines.

Salt Lake City Attendance

At last count, the ACS spring national meeting had attracted 10,668 registrants, distributed over the various categories as follows: regular attendees 5,781; students 3,439; exhibitors 780; exposition only 411; and guests 257.

Member Statistics

At the close of 2008, Society membership totaled 154,024, compared to 160,052 for year-end 2007. In 2008, ACS completed the transition of its 15 year-old membership fulfillment system to a new, more robust system. The year-end 2008 membership numbers reflect a drop in membership of approximately 2% due to the economy and a correction to the counts of 2,589 Emeritus members whom ACS has not been able to reach for many years. Compared to its sister societies, ACS experienced a smaller loss of members in 2008. Article in C&E News

Notes from the Council Committee on Meetings and Expositions

In my position as Chair of a major Council committee, the Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E), a number of important issues were addressed. These include: selecting sites for the 2019 national meetings, review of the 2008 regional meetings, and installing new protocols to increase participation in the Exposition.

Related to the subject of managing the technical program, we have found it necessary to more clearly reiterate the standing ACS policy regarding photography and videography of oral and poster presentations. In an article that appeared in the March 2, 2009, issue of C&E News, I was interviewed and explained our policy.