

2023 LVACS election ballot

Chair-Elect – Chester Crane

Chester earned his B.S. in Chemistry from Muhlenberg College, then attended Penn State University where he earned his Ph.D. in Chemistry. His first professional position as a Chemist was at the Exxon/Shell Joint Venture Infineum. He moved on to Isolatek International for formulation work on fireproofing materials. He worked a little over a year as a contract formulations chemist at Picatinny Arsenal, then back to the Lehigh Valley at International Battery in Allentown, PA. His next position was in polymer science at Victaulic in Easton, PA. He is currently employed synthesizing polymers at Mussel Polymers, Inc. at the Ben Franklin Technology Partners facility on the Lehigh University Campus. He has taught chemistry courses at Cedar Crest College, Lafayette College, and Northampton Community College. Chester has previously served the Lehigh Valley Section of the American Chemical Society as secretary for 2006 and 2007, Chair Elect for 2008, and Chair for 2009.

Secretary - Nigel Sanders

Nigel was raised in the Pacific Northwest and attended public schools in Portland, OR. He received his BA degree in Chemistry in 1974 from Reed College and went on to graduate work at Harvard University as a National Science Foundation fellow, earning a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry in 1979. After completing a 2-year National Research Council Associateship at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, DC, Nigel began a 36-year industrial career beginning at Exxon's Corporate Research Laboratory and then with Minerals Technologies Inc. (MTI), retiring in late 2017 as Technical Manager – Global Synthesis. He has taught chemistry part-time at East Stroudsburg University since 2017.

A Past Chair of the Lehigh Valley American Chemical Society (ACS) section (2011), Nigel currently serves as secretary of the section. In the past 3 years, Nigel led development of a partnership with Da Vinci Science Center in Allentown which won the “Partners for Progress and Prosperity Award” at MARM in 2019, Da Vinci’s Grand Maestro Award honoring a partner organization in 2020 and a \$2000 ACS Innovative Program Grant for Da Vinci’s Idea Lab in Fall 2019. In 2021, Nigel organized a special Mole Day celebration at Da Vinci which drew 100 kids and their parents. A new activity in 2022 was participation in the Migrant Education Program’s Lights on Afterschool event with activities from NCW 2022. In 2023, an LVACS brochure was developed and distributed at several school science fairs along with other chemistry information and demonstrations. If re-elected, Nigel plans to continue the work of section secretary in a challenging era of changing member communication needs.

Treasurer – Sherman Cox

Education:

BS, chemistry, Yale College, 1979

PhD, inorganic chemistry, University of California, Santa Barbara with Prof. Galen Stucky, 1989

Work history:

Chemistry Lab Technician, Bell Telephone Laboratories, 1979-1982

Research Laboratory Set-up Coordinator and Researcher, University of California, Santa Barbara with Prof. Fred Wudl, 1982-1986

Scientist, Senior Scientist and Technical Advisor, Specialty Minerals Inc., division of Minerals Technologies Inc., 1989-2022 (retired)

Service:

Participated in various science outreach programs for young people.

Served as Treasurer of the LVACS section in the early 1990’s.

Participated in LVACS Strategic Planning retreat, June 2022.

Councilor – Matt Sonntag

Dr. Matt Sonntag is an associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry at Albright College which he joined in 2014. He earned his B.A. in chemistry from Coe College and Ph.D. in physical and analytical chemistry from Northwestern University. His research at Albright involves using Raman spectroscopy to study the effect of composition on the structure of non-crystalline materials. Additionally, he uses surface-enhanced Raman spectroscopy to examine sub-ensemble molecular properties and plasmonically driven chemical reactions. He has attended regional and national meetings with students nearly every year since his arrival at Albright presenting 35 oral and poster presentations most with undergraduate coauthors. He has volunteered as a judge for the Reading-Berks Science and Engineering Fair and performed science experiments for preschoolers at the Albright Early Learning Center since 2018.