Special Edition

The

TarHelium

A Publication of the North Carolina Section of the American Chemical Society

Vol. 16, No. 5 January, 1986

Dear ACS Members:

This special issue of the TarHelium contains a summary, beginning on Page 2, of discussions held at our section's planning retreat last January. It represents what we could accomplish if we had sufficient resources and interest. While we do have ongoing activities in many of the areas discussed, some thought must be given to whether or not our priorities are correct and our implementation effective at this time.

The planning retreat generated ideas but not plans. Our next step should be to prioritize the ideas and to develop plans to put them into action. To do so, we must take stock of our resources and recognize our limitations, that is, how much money and how much active participation will be needed for our section to grow.

Please read this document and consider the ideas expressed herein. We need your input concerning the direction our local section should take, and we need your participation to make these plans work. I urge you to call me (248-4338) or other Executive Committee members with your ideas and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Eric

Eric C. Bigham
Chairman-Elect

NC SECTION'S PLANNING RETREAT

Discussion of Member Services

The following items were chosen for discussion:

1. Local news, especially people, activities, and work places.
2. Publications/TarHellium.
3. Ways to activate members.
4. Professional relations/career management.
5. Interaction with student chapters.
6. Safety, especially in the high school chemistry labs.
7. Waste disposal from laboratories.
8. Integration of local section activities with work and with employers.
9. Financial advice.
10. Academic industrial interface.

Of these, the local news and integration of section activities with employers were considered to be discussed more appropriately under public relations.

Publications

The committee felt that under proper conditions a directory would be useful. This would be true especially if it contained information about the interests, research, services, and resources available from the membership. Another publication of interest would be a listing of organizations in our area which employ chemists. This would be useful to current section members, as well as students and chemists from other areas. Third, a brochure could be produced which lists the activities of the North Carolina Section and perhaps employment opportunities within the section. As a way of increasing participation in our activities, our publications could carry news from the section, want ads, and feature articles. The publication might provide the opportunity for members to make personal contacts. All publications of our section should make the maximum use of the resources of the national American Chemical Society (ACS) and should be made as self- supporting as possible. In summary, the section should consider the preparation of a brochure, a directory which would be available upon request at cost to our members, and an expanded TarHellium which provides more member services.

Professional Relations

An effort should be made to encourage employers to recognize and reward participation in ACS activities on local and national levels. We should consider offering information, short courses, or monthly programs on topics of personal interest such as career management, financial management, and other ACS services. Retired members could possibly serve as advisors. We should question employers in our area on what they perceive to be the value of the American Chemical Society. We could also survey our members for their needs for programs and services.

Student Organizations

The section should make contact with chemistry-related student organizations (Alpha Chi Sigma, Phi Lambda Upsilon, and ACS) on the college and university campuses in our section. Forseeable activities are field trips, speaker services, career counseling,

NCSSM ?
½ price dinners for HS teams
Publicity re mtgs to ↑

and distribution of publications. Regarding high school chemistry programs, the section could consult on safety and waste disposal problems with the high schools. The section should also support the interaction of chemistry-related student organizations at the universities which have high school chemistry programs. The safety committee and the high school chemistry committee should work together closely to develop section programs dealing with safety in high school chemistry laboratories.

Academic Industrial Interface

Of notice has been the great success of the Central North Carolina Section with their program in this area. The North Carolina Section should establish a committee to investigate the creation of such a program in our section. The section could consider greater involvement with the existing cooperative education programs either in the form of a local, regional, or national conference on cooperative education. In addition, the committee could investigate the interaction of the ACS with academic institutions and with industrial institutions in an effort to foster a liason between the two.

Education

Part of the function of the ACS is to provide supportive education to high school chemistry teachers and students, college chemistry teachers and students, and professional chemists. The following discussion includes some suggestions about how the North Carolina Section could participate in these areas. In high school chemistry education, a special need exists in outlying or rural areas, especially for equipment and materials. Another possibility is to offer summer programs and internships for teachers and students. The section could consider maintaining a tape and film library for use by institutions located in our area. At the college level, the section could provide job education for students, and should consider offering plant trips to facilities in our area. This section is already providing short courses for students and professional chemists at the rate of two per year. We should consider increasing the number of short courses and also should consider bringing in some of the national short courses to be held in our area. The purpose of short courses should be to update chemists and students in a narrowly defined area. The section can participate in high school and college chemistry education through Project SEED (an ACS-sponsored summer internship program for economically disadvantaged students) and through cooperative education programs.

The ACS is zealous in its support of chemistry. First of all is the belief that chemistry education is important for all educated people, and should be part of any general education. Second, continuing education is a major role of the local section. The section provides a forum for the dissemination and exchange of knowledge through symposia, lectures and short courses. An opportunity for additional action by the section exists in the area of professional development, and a committee could be set up to generate specific programs in this area.

Concerning short courses, the following suggestions were made. First, the short courses should be continued at least as they are presently. The section should strive to find new instructors for short courses. The continuing education units should become optional. We should consider having more than two courses per year. Finally, we should consider offering courses on a non-profit basis. This would be possible if we could separate the support of the scholarship fund from the education committee.

In reference to the scholarship, the possibility of establishing an endowment to support the scholarship is to be investigated. A committee has recently concluded its work revising the format of the section awards, including the scholarship.

Discussion of Section Meetings

Meeting Time

The evening meeting time was agreed upon as best, but some variety in time would be desirable. A reasonable variation in meeting time has evolved in the normal calander. For example, we felt that the Saturday Meeting-in-Minature has proved to be a successful time and that the September afternoon picnic offers reasonable variety. It was suggested that an early summer meeting (May and/or June) might prove popular since it is a freer time for those in the universities.

Publicity

It was felt unanimously that advanced publicity is very important. It would be desirable to publicize meetings at least a semester in advance. The calendar in the Tar-Helium should serve this purpose. Several participants felt that maps showing access to the meeting site and available parking should be included more often in the Tar-Helium. It was also suggested that the calander be announced to surrounding sections.

Location

Although we discussed the desirability of having a permanent meeting site, participants unanimously favored rotating the meeting site as we do currently.

Purpose of Monthly Local Section Meetings

One of the important purposes of the meeting is the social function. The social hour and dinner play an important role regardless of the meeting topic. It was suggested that the social hour should always be free and that the dinner might be supported partially by the section. The meeting topic is the most difficult part of the monthly meeting to plan and accounted for most of the remaining discussion.

Local Section Meeting Program

The major universities and research institutions in the area all have very extensive seminars which are difficult to compete with. Conventional technical presentations, with the excention of the North Carolina Distinguished Speakers Program, are unlikely to be successful in the Research Triangle Area.

The traditional technical presentation more likely would be successful in the southern part of the section. It was suggested that the section might hold two meetings in some months, with one being outside the Research Triangle area. There are numerous speakers whom we could find within the section who could give quality presentations with minimal cost to the section. To help coordinate these activities, it was suggested that we have an 'outreach officer' from the southern part of the section.

Multiple meetings in Research Triangle area also were suggested. Two special interest groups which recently have been active in the area are the Chromatography Discussion Group and the Polymer Group. Instead of having them function independently of the local section, these groups might join the local section for dinner, then divide to hear different speakers.

Any technical meetings in the vicinity of the Research Triangle should be major events: For example, a meeting which would resemble a one-day regional meeting. In addition to contributed papers, this meeting might have a half- or a full-day symposium with several speakers on a common topic. Several topics were suggested for the symposium: compounds in medicine, pharmaceuticals, polymers, agricultural chemistry, microelectronics, biotechnology, environmental chemistry and solar energy conversion. Since these meetings would require considerable funding, the section should underwrite them financially and help to organize them, but seek sponsors and charge registration fees to support them.

This meeting should not compete with the Meeting-in-Miniature, which several of us felt served a real purpose in giving students a chance to present material in the format of a scientific meeting without the trauma of a regional or national meeting.

For the 'routine' meetings, topics should include those of general interest which would normally not be included in seminar schedules of the universities and research organizations. One proposal suggested a series of meetings aimed at high school students and teachers. Topics for these meetings might include the chemistry profession, laboratory safety, and laboratory demonstrations. Another proposal suggested a meeting which surveyed goals (rather than results) of research programs at universities and research institutes in the area. These meetings might take on the form of a poster session with refreshments and also could include tours of the laboratories.

The most successful recent meetings have matched topics and events: For example, the North Carolina Art Museum tour and the presentation on chemistry and art that followed. Several topics were suggested which might have an event which could match the topic: For example, a discussion of molecular modeling coordinated with a tour of the computer graphics facility in the computer science department at UNC. Statistics in chemistry might be associated with a visit to the SAB Institute in Cary. A program might be organized around computers in chemical education, followed by demonstrations of microcomputer applications in chemistry. The toxicology, chemistry and physiology of asbestos could be organized around a tour of NIEHS. Applications of NMR could be followed by a tour of NMR imaging facilities at Duke. A meeting might be held at the Museum of Life and Science or at the UNC Planetarium to discuss chemistry in space or chemistry in space exploration.

It was suggested also that open, special meetings to introduce or to wrap up section short courses might be interesting. The introductory meetings might attract participants to the short course.

Meeting Planning Committee

Perhaps the most urgent need that the group saw was the need to have an active local section meeting planning committee. Rather than have the full responsibility of planning the meetings be that of the Chairman Elect, this responsibility should be shared by the Planning Committee. Individuals on this committee should be responsible for given meetings. This committee might be a subcommittee made up of other Executive Committee members, since they also must be responsible for the finances.

Annual planning retreats, such as this one, should offer an opportunity for all members to suggest meeting topics, as well as other activities of the section.

Public Affairs and Public Relations

General

Public relations and public affairs are topics of great concern and emphasis at the national ACS level, and the ACS would like for the local sections to take an active part in this field. Opportunity exists for the section to educate the public about scientific matters, to disseminate information from the national ACS, to provide services to the public about chemical matters (toxic wastes, environment, and safety), and to influence legislation on scientific topics by providing accurate information.

Educate the Public

Chemistry has a somewhat negative image in the eyes of the public, and our own best interest dictates that we try to improve our credibility and status [See the ACS report entitled, "Opportunities in Chemistry," by Pimentel--referred to as the "Pimentel" report]. Some ideas are to publicize the good things about chemistry, announce major accomplishments of our members, and recognize local and national award winners. A second important goal is to work with the media to make accurate information available. This could be done by working closely with local news people, by making known sources of information at the ACS, by distributing materials which are available from the ACS, by offering educational services to the media, by publicizing a list of chemists with work of public interest, by publicizing special speakers, by promoting radio/TV programs dealing with chemistry, and by rewarding outstanding articles via the media. In addition, the section could distribute information, such as "What's Happening in Chemistry," to the media. The section should respond to publications which present inaccurate reports on science.

Public Service

We often have expertise and material which could be used for the public good. In particular, the section could be a clearing house for information about laboratory safety and waste disposal. This service would be valuable to those persons responsible for high school and college chemistry laboratories and perhaps small industrial labs. The section could be a source of speakers and publications on chemistry career planning and development for student groups. Finally, the section could provide data to public leaders which would help them make informed decisions.

Public Affairs

The American Chemical Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization which must not take direct action in public affairs; but, in its educational role, the ACS can provide information to law-makers and members who want to act on their own behalves. The ACS already offers scientific advisors to Senator Helms (Prof. Getzen), Congressman Rose (Dr. Rand), and Congressman Valentine (Prof. Hobbs). Perhaps there are others (especially state legislators) who could use a source of chemical expertise.

The ACS publishes policy statements on many issues. These could be collected, made available to any interested person, and published in the Tarhelium. The members need to be aware of policies, laws, and issues which affect their careers and lives. Chemists who have accurate sources of information could take public stands on these issues and try to influence the public. Perhaps the section could discuss topics of mutual interest with state and federal representatives. The representatives could be invited to attend section meetings. Many issues are not problems with chemists and chemicals but with non-chemical control (i.e., political or emotional decisions).

ELECTION RESULTS

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Richard A. Palmer, submitted the following results of our recent election:

For Chairman Elect:
WILLIAM SWITZER

For Alternate Councilor:
HENRY BENT

For Secretary:
CAROLYN FOUST

For Councilor (2 yr):
IVY CARROLL

For Councilor (3 yr):
MARCUS HOBBS

The ballots were counted by Lynn Wright and Richard Palmer, after signatures on the outsides of the envelopes were verified against the membership list. The count was subsequently verified by Joan Bursey. For exact counts for individual offices, please contact Dr. Palmer at 684-2414.

!!SECTION DUES PASS!!

The Nominating Committee is pleased to report that the institution of section dues passed, with a count of 127 for implementation and 53 against. An additional $3.00 will be included in your regular bill from the national ACS office, beginning in the fall of 1986.

SECTION ARCHIVES ESTABLISHED

Permanent archives to house the records of the NC Section were approved and established by the Executive Committee, effective beginning December 4, 1985. The archives are located in the Kenan Chemistry Laboratories at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The caretaker of the archives is our recently formed Archives Committee, which is chaired by Dr. Maurice Bursey of UNC-Chapel Hill. Other members of the committee are Dr. Halbert Carmichael of NC State University and Dr. Marcus Hobbs of Duke University. Our section has needed a place to store records for quite some time, and the addition of this new facility is welcomed.

MEETING-IN-MINIATURE - FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

The annual Meeting-in-Miniature is scheduled for Saturday, April 19, 1986 at UNC-Chapel Hill. The meeting will start approximately at 8:30 am and will end at noon with a luncheon and awards presentation. Speakers will be the guest of the Section at the luncheon. An application for presentation of a paper is included below. The deadline for receiving titles is **Friday, March 7, 1986.** Contributions are encouraged from both academic and non-academic laboratories. Participation by government and industrial laboratories has increased over the last several years and the Executive Committee hopes that the participation by non-academic labs will be even greater this year.

APPLICATION
Meeting-in-Miniature
Saturday Morning, April 19, 1986
UNC Chapel Hill

Author(s): _____

Position(s): _____

Presented by: _____

Institution: _____

Title of Paper: _____

Session:

_____ Analytical	_____ Inorganic
_____ Biochemical	_____ Organic
_____ Chemical Education	_____ Physical
_____ Polymer	_____ Other

Regular Session ____ *Poster Session : ____ *Either Session: ____

Type of Projector Needed (if any): _____

Deadline: Friday, March 7, 1986

Mail Application To: William L. Switzer
Department of Chemistry, Box 8204
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, NC 27695-8204

*If enough interest, poster session to be added.

1986 PRODUCT EDUCATION NIGHT

Instrument Society of America (ISA), Tar Heel Capital Area Section, invites you to attend a table-top exhibit of the latest materials and equipment for industrial instrumentation and control. Over fifty exhibitors will be on hand to show their products and answer your questions. We hope to see you there.

ADMISSION IS FREE

Free roast beef, beer and soft drinks
will be served to all attending!

DATE: February 18, 1986

TIME: 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.

PLACE: Mission Valley Inn
Expo Center
Raleigh, NC

Please fill out the registration card below and present it at the door to be admitted. For further information, contact Greg Berg at (919) 286-7908.

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Registration Card

1986 PRODUCT EDUCATION NIGHT
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FEBRUARY 18, 1986

Name _____

Company _____

Company Address _____

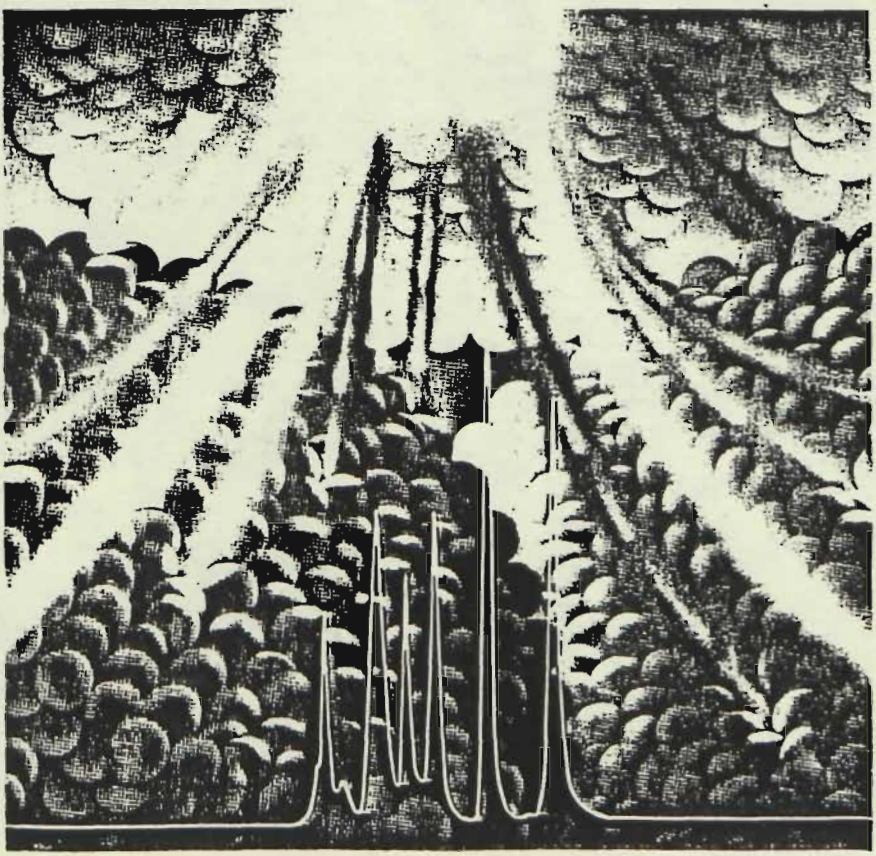
_____

Position _____

Work Phone ( ) _____

Are you an ISA member? Yes____ No____

Mission Valley Inn 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Western Boulevard at Avent Ferry Road, Raleigh, NC



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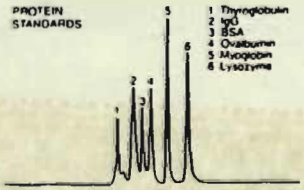

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Manager, Membership and Subscription Services
American Chemical Society
P.O. Box 3337
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Changes in membership status also should be submitted to the above address.

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