

Northeast Wisconsin Local Section of the American Chemical Society

Councilor Report from 248th Fall National Meeting and Expo

The meeting was held in San Francisco from 6th – 11th August, with the technical program starting on 7th August.

As the local section councilor for the Northeast Wisconsin Section, I am providing a report of my activities.

ACS Council Meeting (Wednesday 11th August): The meeting was called to order at 8.00am by ACS President Thomas Barton. The minutes of the 247th ACS Council meeting from Dallas were unanimously approved. There were several items of action for the Council's attention. (see Appendix for details)

As the Chair of the Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC), I had several official duties to perform including Chairing the one and a half day LSAC Meeting, co-chairing the joint LSAC/CCA Meeting (see below) and presenting an oral report to ACS Council on Wednesday.

Committee on Community Affairs (CCA) joint meeting with LSAC. I co-chaired the joint meeting on Tuesday afternoon where subcommittee chairs were able to provide updates to their weekend meetings. It was noted that there are still limited funds available from LSAC for local sections to host a speaker from the Speaker Directory (\$400 towards travel upon completion of evaluations). I also provided an update on proposed 2015 local section grant programs

Local Section Activities Committee (LSAC) I chaired the weekend meeting of LSAC. We heard from two members of the Leadership Advisory Board as LSAC (20 committee members plus 7 associates) propose a Committee Strategic planning Session for 2015. We also discussed, in subcommittee, the budget for 2015, and the types of grant proposals that would be available to local sections in 2015.

Appendix:

Actions of the Council

Election Results

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following slate of candidates for membership on the **Committee on Committees** beginning in 2015: Spiro D. Alexandratos, Mark A. Benvenuto, Mitchell R.M. Bruce, Judith N. Currano, Jetty L. Duffy-Matzner, Kathleen Gibboney, Helen A. (Bonnie) Lawlor, Zaida Morales-Martinez, Robert A. Pribush, and Patricia A. Redden. By electronic ballot, the Council elected **Mitchell R.M. Bruce, Judith N. Currano, Helen A. (Bonnie) Lawlor, Zaida Morales-Martinez, and Robert A. Pribush** for the 2015-2017 term.
- The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following slate of candidates for membership on the **Council Policy Committee** beginning in 2015: Lawrence Barton, Dwight W. Chasar, Lynne P. Greenblatt, Martha G. Hollomon, Peter C. Jurs, Pamela D. Kistler, Doris I. Lewis, Christopher Masi, Andrea Twiss-Brooks, and Linette M. Watkins. By electronic ballot, the Council elected **Lawrence Barton, Lynne P. Greenblatt, Peter C. Jurs, and Linette M. Watkins**, for the 2015-2017 term, and **Andrea Twiss-Brooks** for the remainder of a 2014-2016 term.
- The Council Policy Committee presented to the Council the following slate of candidates for membership on the **Committee on Nominations and Elections** beginning in 2015: Anthony W. Addison, John W. Finley, Lydia E.M. Hines, Roland F. Hirsch, Robert L. Lichter, Mamie W. Moy, Anne T. O'Brien, Eleanor D. Siebert, Herbert B. Silber, and Ralph A. Wheeler. By electronic ballot, the Council elected **Lydia E.M. Hines, Robert L. Lichter, Mamie W. Moy, Anne T. O'Brien, and Eleanor D. Siebert** for the 2015-2017 term.

Reports of Elected Committees

Nominations and Elections (N&E)

N&E announced the candidates for the fall 2014 ACS national election as follows:

Candidates for President-Elect, 2015

- **Peter K. Dorhout**, Dean of Arts & Sciences and Professor of Chemistry, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS
- **William A. Lester, Jr.**, Professor of the Graduate School, Department of Chemistry, University of California, Berkeley, CA
- **Donna J. Nelson**, Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

Candidates for Directors-at-Large, 2015-2017

- **Dawn A. Brooks**, Sr. Director, Lilly Research Laboratories, Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, IN
- **William F. Carroll, Jr.**, Vice-President, Occidental Chemical Corporation, Dallas, TX
- **Barbara A. Sawrey**, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, and Dean of Undergraduate Education, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA
- **Ellen B. Stechel**, Deputy Director, ASU-LightWorks, Tempe, AZ, Arizona State University

Candidates for District III Director, 2015-2017

- **Pat N. Confalone**, Confalone Consulting, LLC, (Retired DuPont), Wilmington, DE
- **Anne S. DeMasi**, Hazard Communication Manager, Chemtura Corporation, Philadelphia, PA

Candidates for District VI Director, 2015-2017

- **Paul W. Jagodzinski**, Dean, College of Engineering, Forestry & Natural Sciences, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ
- **Lee H. Latimer**, Consultant, Oakland, CA

Committees (ConC)

- On the recommendation of ConC, Council **VOTED** to continue the Committee on Patents and Related Matters, subject to concurrence by the Board of Directors; and to continue the Committee on Technician Affairs.

Council Policy (CPC)

CPC announced that the recommendations of its Task Force to Review the Councilor Reimbursement Policy, approved in March 2014, were forwarded to the Society Committee on Budget and Finance and ultimately will go to the Board for action.

At the spring meeting in 2015, CPC will set the divisor for 2016 – 2019. The formula will be based on membership numbers as of December 31, 2014. Official notification of the Councilor divisor and the number of Councilors permitted for Local Sections or Divisions will be sent to Local Sections and Divisions no later than May 1, 2015, as it will affect elections conducted in 2015. CPC will form a small task force on Councilor Divisor Communications to assist staff.

Reports of Society Committees and Committee on Science (Highlights)

Budget and Finance (B&F)

B&F reviewed the Society's 2014 probable year-end financial projection which calls for a Net Contribution from operations of \$14.4 million, or \$752,000 higher than the Approved Budget. Total revenues are projected at \$497.2 million. This is \$1.1 million or 0.2% unfavorable to the Approved

Budget. The projected shortfall is primarily driven by lower-than-budgeted Electronic Services, Registration Fees, and Advertising revenues. Total expenses are projected at \$482.8 million, which is \$1.9 million or 0.4% favorable to the Approved Budget. This variance is the result of lower-than-budgeted expenses across multiple categories primarily in the Society's information services divisions (CAS and Publications). The Probable 1 projection was developed using May 31 actual financial results. Based on more recent information through July, management believes this projection will be exceeded.

Education (SOCED)

SOCED received an update on the new American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT), which is now accepting members and will officially launch September 2, 2014. AACT member benefits include access to curricular resources, such as lesson plans and multimedia; professional development opportunities; a subscription to *ChemMatters*; and an online member network. SOCED voted to approve revisions to the current policy statements on hands-on laboratory science, science and technology funding, and visa restrictions. The statements will go to the Board of Directors for approval at its December meeting.

Science (ComSci)

ComSci remains focused on three areas: increasing understanding of the emerging frontiers in science, recommending eminent chemical scientists for prestigious external awards, and developing public policies to advance science in society. ComSci has identified two multidisciplinary areas that hold great promise for fostering innovation and opportunities for chemistry-related scientists: advanced materials and the chemistry of clean and renewable energy. ComSci has also completed four on-demand video interviews with Nobel Laureates and other celebrated scientists, which will be linked with the onsite emerging science forums in 2015.

Reports of Standing Committees (Highlights)

Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA)

CEPA announced that the unemployment rate for all ACS chemists has dropped from 3.5% in March 2013 to 2.9% as of March 2014. However, the unemployment rate for new chemistry graduates as of August 2013 is considered to be an all-time high of 14.6%. The number is higher when we isolate bachelor's level graduates, for whom the rate is 15.8%.

- On the recommendation of CEPA, Council **VOTED** to approve the Professional Employment Guidelines.

Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E)

M&E reported that 11,847 papers were accepted for the 248th National Meeting in San Francisco. As of August 13, total attendance was 15,761. The Exposition had 432 booths with 285 exhibiting

companies. The Committee voted to recommend to the Board of Directors the following sites for National Meetings:

- Boston – Fall 2024, 2029, 2031
- San Diego – Spring 2025, 2031, and Fall 2027
- New Orleans – Spring 2027, 2032
- Chicago – Fall 2022

The Committee heard an update on the Meeting Abstracts Programming System (MAPS). The new system will launch August 25 in preparation for the Denver National Meeting. Regional Meetings and specialty conferences will use MAPS starting in January 2015.

M&E has voted to strengthen the current recording policy at National Meetings by including enforcement language. Failure to follow the policy could result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the meeting.

Divisional Activities (DAC)

DAC is conducting a pilot program with the ACS Presentations on Demand Coordinating Editor regarding a new type of recorded meeting content – three to five-minute videos (ACS POD Shorts) that focus on the most notable aspects of a full-length presentation. DAC voted to fund eight Innovative Project Grants, totaling \$33,750. DAC is also developing a process to more readily permit divisions to benefit from one another's innovations.

The Multidisciplinary Program Planning Group is proposing the following 2018-2019 national meeting themes to the divisions for their consideration:

2018

- Spring – Energy Solutions and the Environment
- Fall – Chemistry – from Bench to Market

2019

- Spring – Chemistry for New Frontiers

Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC)

LSAC will award 14 Innovative Project Grants (IPG) totaling \$30,033, bringing the 2014 total to 33 IPG awards totaling over \$70,000. LSAC will also be offering grants during the fall to assist local sections with hosting a strategic planning retreat; a Leadership Development System course in their section, and to assist with travel to the 2015 ACS Leadership Institute. National Chemistry Week will be held October 19-25 with the theme, "The Sweet Side of Chemistry: Candy".

- On the recommendation of LSAC, the Council **VOTED** to dissolve the Ocean County Local Section due to inactivity.

Membership Affairs (MAC)

MAC reported that as of June 30, the total ACS membership was 158,869, a net increase of 512 since May of this year. The number of international members has grown this year by 312, to almost 25,000. The number of current, unpaid members declined in June and is 13% lower than June 2013. As of July 1, automatic renewal (on credit card) became available. The Committee also voted to extend its current test of an introductory membership offer to those who join the Society at non-ACS conferences and events to include the graduate students and potential Regular Members who attend ACS on Campus events worldwide each year.

Constitution and Bylaws (C&B)

C&B certified bylaws for 10 local sections, one division, and two International Chemical Sciences Chapters since January 1, 2014. C&B has been modified the model bylaws for local sections, divisions, and International Chemical Sciences Chapters. The Committees on Local Section Activities, Divisional Activities, and International Activities, respectively, will be asked to review the changes and approve them no later than their Denver (2015) meetings.

Reports of Other Committees (Highlights)

Chemistry and Public Affairs (CCPA)

To celebrate four decades of ACS public policy fellowships, more than 20 former fellows gathered in San Francisco, six of whom spoke about their experiences at a symposium sponsored by CCPA and the Division of Professional Relations. The deadline to apply for the 2015-2016 fellowships is December 31, 2014. More information can be found at www.acs.org/policyfellow.

Environmental Improvement (CEI)

CEI reported on the outstanding programming that was offered at the San Francisco meeting relating to Chemistry and Global Stewardship. The Committee also assisted the Division of Environmental Chemistry in the observance of their centennial. CEI continues to review existing policy statements to

keep them fresh and relevant and to explore emerging areas of interest where ACS can offer the expertise of its members.

Ethics (ETHX)

Through its subcommittees, ETHX has strengthened its relationship with the National Center for Professional & Research Ethics, which is tied to the Education and Materials Subcommittee action plan to develop resource materials, and is committed to producing a twice-yearly newsletter to showcase current Ethics Committee endeavors. It is seeking to co-sponsor or help embed ethics related content and/or dialog into presentations and symposia.

International Activities (IAC)

At the San Francisco meeting, IAC organized or sponsored seven symposia, convened four soft-skills training sessions for Brazilian young scholars studying in the U.S.A., conducted an experimental networking event for Chinese chemists and allied practitioners, and initiated a 'soft launch' of the ACS International Chemical Sciences Chapter in South Korea.

- On the recommendation of IAC, Council **VOTED** to approve the establishment of an International Chemical Sciences Chapter in South Africa. This action requires Board action, too.

Professional Training (CPT)

At this meeting, CPT evaluated 42 periodic reports from currently approved programs, two from programs on probationary status, and one site visit report from a school applying for ACS approval. Four new programs were approved, and one institution was removed from the approved list. The Committee concluded discussion of the guidelines revision and voted provisional approval of the draft document. The draft will be distributed to department chairs of chemistry programs this fall. CPT also approved the final report of a survey on chemical information resources that will be published in the Committee newsletter and website.

Project SEED

This year, the Committee awarded 28 Project SEED College Scholarships to 17 female and 11 male alumni from 16 states and Puerto Rico. The Committee also reviewed key issues that impact Project SEED: issues pertaining to project selection, college scholarship applications, and geographic distribution of the program. To address these impacts, the Committee proposed modifications to the current selection process for research projects, reviewed and approved changes to the Scholarship application, and established a Geographic Expansion Subcommittee. The Committee also established an Ethics Task Force and discussed the implementation of ethics guidelines for Project SEED students as a requirement for all programs.

Public Relations and Communications (CPRC)

The Chemistry Ambassadors observes its fifth anniversary. There are currently more than 10,000 Ambassadors. At this meeting, CPRC launched “ChemChamps,” an outreach effort still in the pilot stage, as part of the Ambassadors program. Five of our younger members each gave a 3-minute explanation of their research in a way that would engage non-scientists. It appears to be a great follow up to the encouragement given by Alan Alda at an open Board meeting last year to go forth and make chemistry relevant to the public. CPRC now has new mission statement: “CPRC supports the ACS goal of improving public understanding and appreciation of chemistry’s contributions to people’s lives.”

Senior Chemists (SCC)

SCC has approved 22 mini-grants of \$300 each to encourage and support the organization of senior groups at the local section level. The SCC newsletter now has the highest “open” rate of all newsletters published by the Society. The Committee co-organized a very successful day-long symposium, “Innovation in International Collaboration,” with the Committee on International Activities and the Division of Professional Relations.

Technician Affairs (CTA)

CTA observed its 50th Anniversary at this meeting with a symposium, “The Role of the Chemical Technician Through the Decades,” cosponsored with the Division of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry and the Division of the History of Chemistry. CTA also presented three different awards: a Salute to Excellence at the ACS Diversity reception, two K. Michael Shea awards at the CTA anniversary dinner, and the first CTA Chemluminary to the Brazosport Local Section.

Women Chemists (WCC)

WCC sponsored two full-day symposia, “Mom, the Chemistry Professor,” and “Women Leaders of the Global Chemistry Enterprise.” The Committee recognized 10 WCC/Eli Lilly Travel awardees, and the 2014 Overcoming Challenges Award recipient.

The Committee recognized 10 WCC/Eli Lilly Travel Grant Recipients, and the 2014 Overcoming Challenges Award winner. The Committee also acknowledged the Puget Sound Local Section, recipient of the Chemluminary Award for Outstanding Program Aimed at Retaining Women in the Chemical Sciences.

Younger Chemists (YCC)

YCC continues to identify new opportunities for leveraging their social media following (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Vine). The Committee has developed partnerships with the ACS Office of Public Affairs to help promote the #ChemChamps program and the highly successful joint effort “Program in a

Box” with ACS Webinars. YCC has secured funding for two “Program in a Box” events for 2015. At this meeting, YCC sponsored the symposium “Advances in Small Molecule Approaches to HIV.”

Resolutions

The Council passed several resolutions, including one commending Executive Director and CEO Madeleine Jacobs on the occasion of her upcoming retirement.

Actions of the Board of Directors

The Board’s Executive Session

The Board’s Committees

The Board of Directors received reports from its Committees on Grants and Awards (G&A), Executive Compensation, and the Society Committee on Budget and Finance (B&F).

- On the recommendation of the Committee on Grants and Awards, the Board **VOTED** to approve Society nominations for the 2015 Perkin Medal and the 2015 nominee for the National Science Board Public Service Award.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance, the Board **VOTED** to approve an advance member registration fee of \$390 for national meetings held in 2015.

The Board received a briefing and approved several recommendations from its Committee on Executive Compensation. The compensation of the Society’s executive staff receives regular review from the Board.

The Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer’s Report

The Executive Director/CEO and her direct reports updated the Board on the following: a summary of a recent survey measuring ACS employee engagement; the ACS’s global presence and activities; a recommendation on allocating certain investment income from the ACS Endowment Fund to Project SEED; activities and plans of CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service) and the ACS Publications Division; and a report on “Challenges and Opportunities for ACS, 2015-2017.”

- As a follow-up to the Publications report, the Board **VOTED** to appoint or reappoint several editors of Society publications.

The Board was also updated on the American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT), a new organization sponsored by the ACS that is officially launching in September. Membership is now open to anyone with an interest in chemistry education. The website is www.teachchemistry.org

Other Society Business

The Board also:

- Held a discussion on strategic questions related to how we can strengthen ACS's service to chemistry communities and professionals worldwide.
- Received an update on the recruitment process for the Executive Director and CEO position. This position offers wonderful challenge and opportunity. We have retained Korn Ferry International, a large, globally known firm, to conduct the search, and the position is currently being advertised. We hope to complete the process in time to have a new Executive Director and CEO in place January 1, 2015.
- Received reports from the Presidential Succession on their current and planned activities for the remainder of 2014 and 2015.
- Approved, on the recommendation of its Committee on Professional and Member Relations, a resolution to recognize the contributions of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in the peaceful application of the chemical sciences to improving people's lives through the transforming power of chemistry and advancing its broader enterprise and its practitioners for the benefit of Earth and its people.
- Approved, on the recommendation of the Committee on Nomenclature, Terminology, and Symbols, a resolution welcoming the Consultative Committee for Amount of Substance: Metrology in Chemistry (CCQM) to co-locate its fall 2015 Committee meeting at the ACS fall National Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.

The Board's Open Session

The Board held a well-attended open session which featured Sam Kean, author of *The Disappearing Spoon* and *The Violinist's Thumb* - both of which were national bestsellers and named Amazon "Top 5" science books of the year. His newest book, *The Tale of the Dueling Neurosurgeons*, was recently released and is receiving high acclaim. Mr. Kean's topic was "The Disappearing Spoon" – the wonders of the periodic table. Following the presentation, members of the presidential succession and the Executive Director and CEO offered brief reports on their activities. (The officers provided more extensive reports on their activities and/or future plans as part of their reports to the Council.)