

# Local Section Leaders: LSAC Chair's Corner, May, 2011

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Posted by [Lee Latimer](#) May 20, 2011

LSAC Chair's Comments for the Local Section Leaders Group in the ACS Network for May, 2011

Welcome to Spring! Some of you living in the colder areas of the country may be thinking, "At last!", while others may be carefully watching water levels in local and distant rivers. Out here in the West, we're delighted that there will be skiing on July 4th, but worry about the huge amount of snow yet to melt in the Sierra Nevada. The flood stories may move west as the Spring proceeds.

In one aspect, the flooding provides an excellent context for meetings later in the year on the chemistry of levees, erosion, runoff issues, etc. as well as opportunities to connect with local water authorities. Recall also that water is the overarching theme for IYC!

With the end of the academic year I hope many of you are now turning your attention to planning ahead for the Fall and for 2012. Several topics are worthy of encouragement and reminders at this time.

Just as communities need to plan for floods and make hard choices, so your section's leaders need to be looking toward their long term planning. Long range planning committees made up of experienced and fresh voices can be a big help to current and future leaders in establishing a pattern of goals and strategies. Usually, quarterly meetings keep the discussion fresh.

Planning for the future takes a sense of the timelines for accomplishing needs. Grant programs have submission deadlines, such as the IPG deadline on June 30. There are also two IYC grant programs with upcoming deadlines for submission so the money can be delivered in time for events to be completed before the end of the year. You can catch up on all of these at [www.acs.org/getinvolved](http://www.acs.org/getinvolved). Keep in mind also that from now through September, local section officers should be working on their budget for 2012. The 2012 budget generally should be approved by October, so this is an important time to discuss resources your section has to work with and the overall future vision for the section in a long range planning function.

As you look ahead, there is always the question, "Who will do it?" One thought for your recruiting initiatives is to keep a list of those who have served in the past, not just recently but also those who were officers and actives 10, 20 or in some cases 30 years ago. Think of them for specific needs that might connect with their interests or past service area. In that same vein, these folks can be a good place to look for candidates for your elections this Fall.

LSAC is currently engaged in Annual Report (AR) reviews and updating some other programs. Your Chair may have already been contacted by your AR reviewer to offer informal comments and some questions on your section's report for 2010. (For the few laggards who have not submitted their reports, please submit them ASAP!)

We are also continuing to evolve the FORMS program and recently held a webinar to review the progress and plans for future developments as well as using it for planning of current events as they develop. You can see and hear past teleconferences and webinars online.

We are also continuing to add speakers to the Speaker Directory and will continue to address geographic diversity. With that goal in mind, we need your help to identify speakers with interesting topics and excellent presentations. Recall that there is a \$400 credit available to your section for costs from using Speaker Directory speakers. Contact ACS staff with your nominations.

Finally, I want to encourage all of you to address member retention and recruitment plans for your section on an ongoing basis. This issue affects both your allotments and your representation in Council. Clearly an active, diverse program of activities is your best way to involve members, and to find potential recruits for all your programs.

Studies show that members, especially new members, appreciate being greeted at programs and to connect with programs that are of particular interest. This can lead to increased involvement and continuing membership. Perhaps this can be a distinct position in your section, or a commitment from all your Executive Committee members to speak to all the new faces at a program?

We wish you all a good Spring and Summer, and hope to see you in Denver at the LSAC Open Meeting! Let us hear from you directly and on the network with comments, suggestions and updates.

Lee Latimer

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May 23, 2011 12:13 PM Bryan Balazs

One tip that I think applies to many of the points you've made, is to target your section's communications towards a specific individual, when you're looking for volunteers, feedback, meeting ideas or suggestions, etc. Appeals done via mass emailings often don't work, but a directed phone call or email to a specific individual might do the trick. - Bryan