

The Alembic

Newsletter of the Central Wisconsin Section of the American Chemical Society

Events

- **Virtual Award Banquet. Thursday May 27th!**
- **Please plan on Joining us! See page 3 for more information**
- **October 2021 UWSP Guest Speaker TBD!**

The Chair's Corner

I hope you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy as we continue to move through this pandemic. Our local section has not been able to get together for any in person events this past year, but perhaps in the fall we will be able to do so. I would like to call your attention to a few things in this Alembic. First, our virtual awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 27 at 7:00pm. Please join us on Zoom to congratulate our award winners! The Zoom link information can be found on the Awards Ceremony Invitation page. Second, do you know a chemistry or science teacher in our section's geographical boundaries? Our section includes the following counties: Adams, CHIPPEWA, Clark, Eau Claire, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Price, Rusk, Taylor and Wood. We are offering a new *Teaching Enhancement Grant* to help K-12 science and chemistry teachers improve their curriculum. This grant will consist of funds up to \$500 to purchase materials that will enhance their class. More information can be found on the *Teaching Enhancement Grant* Announcement page. Please spread the word about this opportunity!

I hope to see you on Zoom later this month!

Katie



2020 ACS - CWS Mini-Directory

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NOW ONLINE! The Central Wisconsin Section web page is active! You will find history on our section, a list of our officers, and important information on upcoming meetings and events. Please check it out at the link below!

<https://communities.acs.org/groups/central-wisconsin>



ACS
Chemistry for Life™





The Editor's Desk

Greetings from your Editor!



“Everywhere You Look, the Global Supply Chain Is a Mess,” read a recent headline in the Wall Street Journal. **This, in particular, includes chemical supply chain!** Most supply chain experts agree. Between the pandemic, container shortages, winter weather, factory fires and the blocking of the Suez Canal by a container ship — the chemical logistics world is a mess.

A major blow was the winter storm in February that struck the Gulf Coast. Texas is home to the world's largest petrochemical complex, which turns oil and gas and other byproducts into plastics. Almost 100 critical chemicals and derivatives used widely across many products and industries are processed in Texas. **It will take more than six months to correct the imbalances caused by the storm.** Surges in demand are widely expected to occur in the United States and other countries as vaccinated consumers venture out and spend their stimulus checks. See page 6.



Constraints on the supplies of raw materials — especially propylene oxide (PO), and toluene diisocyanate (TDI)— are leading to factory shutdowns, sharp price increases, and production delays across a range of industries. As an example, note that you can't make a polymeric foam without urethane polymers made by reacting TDI polymers with one form or another of PO. If you can't make foam, you can't make insulation, a couch, bus, car, or camper. PO is critical for many other societal needs. But, if you check google news, apparently chlorine is the only chemical that exists?

I am in the industry, so I have inside knowledge of the challenge. But strangely, when I did a google news search for “chemical shortage” this past week, the first three pages of hits are, almost exclusively, regarding a chlorine shortage. This is unfortunate, that the search engine for google is so poorly programmed that it can find only a small portion of the challenge. While chlorine is important, (close the pool to purify the drinking water) it does not represent the whole picture. Perhaps Google needs to optimize their chemistry search engine to be a bit more diverse?

Jerry

GLRM 2021

Elevating the Importance of Diversity and Inclusion in Chemistry

JUNE 6-9 | VIRTUAL

Hosted by the Minnesota Local Section

ACS
Chemistry for Life®
MEETINGS & EVENTS

2021 Central Wisconsin Awards Ceremony

Thursday, May 27th, 2021 at 7:00PM

**Please join us virtually on Zoom as we honor
these members and awardees**

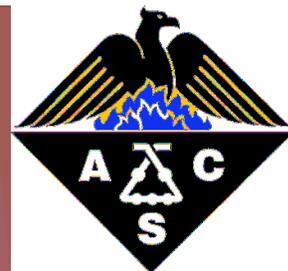
- ❖ Outstanding Service Award
Gary Shulfer

- ❖ Outstanding Contributions to
Chemistry Award
Nate Bowling

- ❖ High School Chemistry Senior Award
Luke Schneider

- ❖ College Chemistry Senior
Ethan Kowalczyk

- ❖ 60 years of service to the ACS
William Copa



Zoom Meeting URL:	https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/94197876516?pwd=NERhT3U3Mk1yM0hXaUZtWVJvdIRMUT09&from=addon
Meeting ID:	941 9787 6516
Passcode:	388186



ACS Central Wisconsin Teaching Enhancement Grant

Attention K-12 Science and Chemistry Teachers,

The [American Chemical Society \(ACS\)](https://www.acs.org) would like to help you enhance your curriculum through a new grant initiative! We in the Central Wisconsin Section of the ACS, the local section in which your school resides, will be administering funds to help teachers enhance their chemistry curriculum. Do you have an idea that you would like to implement but cannot obtain the materials due to limited funding? Please apply for an ACS Central Wisconsin Teaching Enhancement Grant by Monday, July 12! We will notify award winners by Monday, August 2.



Examples of proposed activities that could be funded:

- Materials (such as red cabbage, blender, acidic and basic household items, etc.) to create a pH indicator for demonstration or hands-on use in an elementary school course.
- Materials (such as a plastic stand, zinc and copper washers, alligator clips, vinegar, felt pads, etc.) to create an example battery as a hands-on activity or demonstration for a middle school class.
- Materials (such as black tea, vinegar, universal indicator, starch solution, etc.) to create a demonstration or hands-on activity in the classroom of Le Châtelier's Principle for a high school class.

The focus and goal of an activity should be to demonstrate or provide a hands-on experience for students on a topic related to chemistry. While we recognize the opportunities virtual learning presents, we hope that students will benefit from in-person experiences through this grant.

Requests for electronic equipment (computers, iPads, etc.) and video equipment (microphones, webcams, etc.) must include an explanation for why the activity cannot be done in person.

Please complete the entry form found at the following link by Monday, July 12 at 5 p.m.

https://uwsp.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e9aZzpXJ7a9L2wC

Required items in the form:

1. Name
2. Email
3. School Name
4. City of School
5. County of School
6. Grade(s) of Students for the Activity
7. Targeted Learning Outcome(s)
8. Summary of Teaching Proposal (up to 1000 words)
9. Estimated Budget (up to \$500)

Contact: Katie McGarry (kmcgarry@uwsp.edu)

Website: <https://communities.acs.org/t5/Central-Wisconsin-Local-Section/gh-p/cent-wisconsin>



Eager furniture buyers face long delays because of supply chain issues, **shortage of chemicals**

Reproduced from www.cleveland.com



CLEVELAND, Ohio -- The winter storms and power outages that hit Texas and Louisiana happened about two months ago. But their economic impact, particularly for the furniture industry, is still being felt greatly around the country, including in Northeast Ohio.

Texas and Louisiana house the plants that produce toluene diisocyanate (TDI), one of two main chemicals used to make furniture foam. Because of the storms' impact, those plants had to shut down their manufacturing process for several weeks, said John Ferrato, president of Wayside Furniture in Akron. The backup in producing TDI is one of the reasons customers have had 3-6 month wait times for furniture to arrive in store showrooms.

"Since people couldn't travel due to covid, they couldn't go out to restaurants, so they're spending their money on anything to do with the home," Ferrato said. "So you have huge increases in demand, but then you have a decrease in production capacity, it's a perfect storm for the whole industry."

Furniture industry veterans Mike Dewey and Larry Weisman, who own Dewey Furniture in Vermilion and Sheraton Furniture in Willoughby, respectively, have never seen demand for furniture at this level. "This has been outrageous," Weisman said. "I mean thank God, it's been fantastic, but never seen anything close to this."

Ferrato said 3-6 month waits are the most common, but some factories are quoting 8-9 month wait times for product. These longer wait times, though, are for furniture that is coming on special order, meaning it's something different than what Ferrato has in stock. "It's just that if you see it, and if it's in blue and you want it in brown, instead of our normal six to 10 weeks, we're telling you three to six months," Ferrato said.

At Fish Furniture, 95% of its business consists of products coming on special order, said owner Dan Geller. Geller said most customers know that unless they're buying a floor sample, they'll have to wait. Fish Furniture has offered customers loaner furniture to use until their pieces come in. Geller said he knows the TDI backup will be resolved within the next 3-4 months because the plants are moving from two shifts to three and will have the workers.

Containers and boats to ship product from overseas are also in short supply because of the huge amount of demand. Ferrato said product could be sitting in a factory overseas for months because it can't get onto a ship.

But then when it does get onto a ship and reaches Los Angeles ports or the East Coast, docks are overrun and boats "could literally sit out on the water for weeks on end," Ferrato said. Some of the backup at the docks is also caused by a lack of workers there.

Geller and other furniture owners think the current demand will continue into the next few months, around the summer or early fall when most people will likely be vaccinated and want to return to going on vacations and eating out. They'll be spending money on other things again, and furniture sales should return to what stores typically deal with.

But the supply chain issues could cause problems for the furniture industry for an extended period of time. Geller thinks it will take another year for the supply chain to return to normal. Weisman agrees and is hoping next year things will be back to normal. He advises that if someone wants a special order piece of furniture for Christmas, that they make the order by May. "I think the supply chain is so burnt out that it may take months for the furniture industry to get out of this thing," Weisman said.





Councilors Report

Robin Tanke, Councilor



The ACS Spring governance meetings scheduled for San Antonio was virtual and occurred over two weeks in March 2021; the technical meeting was held April 5 -16. I was appointed an associate to the Council for Community Activities (CCA) and will be working on volunteer recognition (Chemluminary and VOTY Awards), ACS Kids Zone and the CCEW 2023 Theme Team. I also attend the District V Caucus (Sunday, 3/21/21) and the Councilors Meeting (Wednesday, 3/24/21). The Fall 2021 meeting is currently scheduled as a hybrid meeting in Atlanta; it has not yet been announced if the Fall 2021 governance meetings will be virtual or in-person.

Summary of the Council Meeting 3/24/21:

Candidates for President-Elect, 2022

The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following nominees for selection as candidates for President-Elect, 2022: Gerard Baillely, Anne M. Gaffney, Judith C. Giordan, and John C. Warner. By electronic ballot, the Council selected **Judith C. Giordan** and **John C. Warner** as **candidates for 2022 President-Elect**. These two candidates, along with any candidates selected via petitions, will stand for election in the Fall National Election.

Candidates for Districts I and V – Remember to Vote, we are in District V

The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the results of the election held prior to the virtual Council meeting to select *candidates* from the list of *nominees* for Directors from District I and District V on the Board of Directors for the term 2022-2024. By internet ballot, the Councilors from these districts selected **D. Richard Cobb** and **Katherine L. Lee** as **District I candidates**; and **Lisa Balbes** and **Joseph A. Heppert** as **District V candidates**. Ballots will be distributed to members residing in District I and District V around October 1, 2021. In addition, the Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of the following **candidates for Directors-at-Large** for 2022-2024 terms: **Rodney M. Bennett**, **Arlene Garrison**, **Natalie A. LaFranzo**, and **Lee H. Latimer**. The election of two Directors-at-Large from among these four candidates and any selected via petition will be conducted in the fall.

Other Council Actions

Committee on Committees Petition The Council approved the *Petition to Harmonize Committee Structures, Processes, and Terms*, as amended. This petition places all committees in one category called “Society Committees” – eliminating the several different types of committees. The years of service and the number of committee members on each Society Committee would now be consistent and would match the present terms of the Elected Committees: three-year terms with a two-term maximum for committee members. All Society Committees will no longer have the “Councilor only” designation, allowing an individual to join and continue service on a committee regardless of their status as a Councilor.



Councilors Report Continued



Committee on Local Section Activities Petition The Council approved the *Petition to Amend the Duties of the Committee on Local Section Activities*. This petition provides the Committee on Local Section Activities with the authority to support Local Sections by taking action on their behalf, including appointing an interim executive committee and/or facilitating a Local Section's election when there is a lapse in the local section's leadership.

2022 Schedule of Membership – If you know people who have left the ACS due to membership cost, tell them about the new membership levels that will begin in 2022!

The Council approved the 2022 Schedule of Membership, upon recommendation of the Committee on Membership Affairs. The Schedule reduces the base dues rate to \$160 per year and is introducing a reduced benefit membership of \$80 per year.

Updates to the ACS Strategic Plan

The ACS Board of Directors approved extensive changes to the ACS Strategic Plan last December. Equity was added to our Core Values, which now include on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect. Our Vision and Mission statements were modified to make clear that these statements include all people. A fifth Strategic Goal: 'To Embrace and to Advance Inclusion in Chemistry', was added to make clear that Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect was our commitment at the same level as our long-standing four strategic goals.

Other items: The Council approved the recommendation of the Committee on Committees that the Committee on Ethics be continued. The Council approved the Distribution Formula for Division Allocations upon the recommendation of the Committee on Divisional Activities.

In 2020, ACS generated a net from operations of \$61 million, which was almost \$20 million higher than the budget. Total revenues were \$618.4 million, increasing 3.9% or \$23.1 million over 2019. Expenses for the year were \$557.4 million, virtually even with the prior year and almost 5 percent below budget. This result was attributable to strong revenue performance from the Society's Information Services units (i.e., CAS and ACS Publications) and a combination of COVID-19 related impacts on, and careful management of, expenses across the ACS.

The Society's 2020 Net from Operations totaled \$130.5 million and included Information Services and Investments. The Society's financial position strengthened considerably in 2020, with Unrestricted Net Assets, or reserves, increasing by 35 percent to \$553 million at December 31. The increase was primarily the result of the \$61 million net from operations, and growth of the Society's investments totaling \$66 million.

I hope you remain healthy and that we can meet in person sometime this fall and plan NCW 2021 Events.

All the best!

Robin

The Alembic (May 2021)

Newsletter of the Central Wisconsin Section, ACS
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Stevens Point, WI 54481

**Mark your calendar!
Virtual Award Meeting
Thursday May 27th!**

Member Address Label

Upcoming Events



Resilience of Chemistry
Fall 2021
August 22 - 26
Atlanta, GA



Bonding Through Chemistry
Spring 2022
March 20 - 24
San Diego, CA



Sustainability in a Changing World
Fall 2022
August 21 - 25
Chicago, IL