

Northeast Wisconsin Local Section of the American Chemical Society

Councilor Report from 244th Fall ACS National Meeting and Expo

The meeting was held in Philadelphia from 18th August – 22nd August, with the technical program starting on 19th August.

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

ACS Council Meeting (Wednesday 22nd August): The meeting was called to order at 8.00am by ACS President Bassam Shakashiri. The minutes of the 243rd ACS Council meeting from San Diego were unanimously approved. There were several items of action for the Council's attention. (see Appendix for details)

Committee on Community Affairs (CCA) joint meeting with LSAC. I attended the Open Meeting and Reception of CCA/LSAC on Tuesday 21st March. There were about 60 people present including members of both committees and ACS Staff liaisons. This committee has representation with and on several other ACS committees. Both committee chairs were overseeing their final meetings. I presented an oral report from the work of Alliances and Partnerships Subcommittee, specifically some limited funding that was available for Science Cafes. In particular, there was interest in the "removal" of the item for consideration by Council on the allotment calculation for local sections. It will be brought up, instead, at the New Orleans Meeting.

Local Section Activities Committee (LSAC) I spent the weekend (Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th) at the Local Section Activities Committee's meeting (I am a full member of the committee). On Saturday, we had a full agenda to discuss on changes to FORMS, local section speakers, awards, discussion of the petition changes proposed for action by ACS Council. Earlier this year I moved from Grants and Awards to Alliances and Partnerships. Our committee approved several mini-grants, nano-grants and a selection of speakers for the on-line directory. As far as I am aware, the \$400 that is available to local sections to assist with speaker planning, and that we have used successfully, is continuing. I am a member of the group that will be discussing the new allotment formula that will be used for determining local section allotments. This work will be done later this Fall. Mitchell Bruce, current chair of the Technology Tools and Operations subcommittee will take over as Chair of LSAC from Lee Latimer. The committee heard a report about the 2012 ACS Strategic Plan – you will receive an email by mid-September with a short survey of the ACS Strategic Plan.

District V Caucus (Sunday 20th August). The meeting began at 6.00pm, I went to the District V Caucus. About 35 people were in attendance, mostly local section councilors and some divisional members. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Kent Voorhees (standing in for Marv Lang). We conducted elections for the 2013-15 Caucus Chair and Secretary. I served as the secretary for the meeting.

The Caucus heard reports from three directors from District V regarding the activities of the Board Meeting over the weekend. We also received an update on ACS Finances from the Budget and Finance Committee.

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 2013: Spiro D. Alexandratos, G. Bryan Balazs, Christopher J. Bannochie, Arindam Bose, Dawn A. Brooks, Michelle V. Buchanan, Alan B. Cooper, Judith Currano, Warren D. Hull, Jr., David J. Lohse, Christopher J. Masi, Ingrid Montes, Jason E. Ritchie, and Ralph A. Wheeler. By electronic ballot, the Council elected G. Bryan Balazs, Dawn A. Brooks, Michelle V. Buchanan, Alan B. Cooper, and Ingrid Montes for the 2013-2015 term; and Spiro D. Alexandratos and Judith Currano for the remainder of a two-year (2013-2014) 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 2013: Frank D. Blum, Mary K. Carroll, Joseph A. Heppert, Martha G. Hollomon, Lee H. Latimer, Willem R. Leenstra, Carolyn Ribes, and Ellen B. Stechel. By electronic ballot, the Council elected Frank D. Blum, Mary K. Carroll, Lee H. Latimer, and Carolyn Ribes for the 2013-2015 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 2013: Cherlynlavaughn Bradley, Dwight W. Chasar, Catherine E. Costello, Milagros Delgado, Kevin J. Edgar, Carol B. Libby, Les W. McQuire, Donivan R. Porterfield, Robert A. Pribush, and Steven W. Yates. By electronic ballot, the Council elected Cherlynlavaughn Bradley, Milagros Delgado, Carol B. Libby, Les W. McQuire and Donivan R. Porterfield for the 2013-2015 term.

Candidates for President-Elect and Board of Directors

- The candidates for the fall 2012 ACS national election were announced as follows:

Candidates for President-Elect, 2013

Dr. Thomas J. Barton, Distinguished Professor, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

Dr. Luis A. Echegoyen, Robert A. Welch Professor, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX

Candidates for Directors-at-Large, 2013-2015

Ms. Carol A. Duane, President, D&D Consultants of Mentor, Mentor, OH

Ms. Valerie J. Kuck, Retired, Lucent Technologies (Bell Labs), Murray Hill, NJ

Ms. Helen (Bonnie) A. Lawlor, Executive Director, National Federation of Advanced Information Services (NFAIS), Philadelphia, PA

Dr. Ingrid Montes, Professor, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus, San Juan, PR

Candidates for District I Director, 2013-2015

Dr. Thomas R. Gilbert, Associate Professor, Northeastern University, Boston, MA

Dr. Neil D. Jespersen, Professor of Chemistry, St. John's University, Queens, NY

Candidates for District V Director, 2013-2015

Dr. John E. Adams, Curators' Teaching Professor of Chemistry, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO

Dr. Peter K. Dorhout, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

Petitions

(For Action)

- The Council received two amendments (petitions) to the ACS Constitution and Bylaws for action: The Petition on Candidate Comment in C&EN and the Petition on International Chemical Sciences Chapters Funds. The Council VOTED not to approve the Petition on Candidate Comment in C&EN which sought to restrict candidates for election to the Board of Directors from publishing comments in C&EN from May through the balloting period. The Council also VOTED not to approve (64% to 36% via clicker vote) the Petition on International Chemical Sciences Chapters Funds. This petition sought to clarify that the Board of Directors may grant funds to international chapters for specific purposes.

(For Consideration)

- The Council also received one amendment (petition) to the ACS Constitution and Bylaws for consideration (not action): Petition to Amend National Election Procedures. The Petition to Amend National Election Procedures seeks to shorten the campaign period for candidates for President-Elect and to charge the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) with proposing two candidates for President-Elect. Currently, N&E proposes four *nominees* from which Council selects two *candidates*. Under the petition, Council would no longer vote on a list of nominees. The process of petition candidates would not change. The Petition to Amend National Election Procedures will be on the Council agenda for action at the 2013 spring meeting.

Committee Review

- As part of a regular performance review, the Council VOTED to continue the Joint Board-Council Committees on Chemists with Disabilities and on Professional Training. Continuation of these two committees also requires Board of Directors concurrence.

New Committee Supported

- The Council VOTED to establish a Joint Board-Council Committee on Senior Chemists whose mission is to enrich the educational, technical, and cultural lives of the ACS Membership by ministering to and employing the talents of senior ACS members by: sharing with ACS members of all ages a rich variety of personal experiences and expertise gained over many years of professional service; fostering interest and participation in the science of chemistry through community outreach, especially in grades K-12; acting as science advisors/ambassadors for the purpose of cultural exchange at home and abroad; providing senior ACS members with challenging, diverse, and enjoyable professional experiences that enable them to contribute to the cultural experiences of their communities; and recommending policies that address issues of interest to senior chemists. The committee is aimed primarily at members over 60 years of age. Next, the Board of Directors must vote on whether to establish the committee.

Meeting Registration Report

- As of close of business August 22, 2012, the ACS fall national meeting had attracted 13,320 registrants, including 7,817 regular attendees and 3,177 students.

Membership Activity

- One of the Society's long-time concerns has been the decline in the number of domestic Regular Members, that is, members paying full dues. The impact of this decline has been offset, as we have reached record membership levels, by increases in the number of international Regular Members, and the 2009 addition of Student Member Undergraduates. While the number of regular domestic members paying less than full dues has decreased from 33,000 to 29,000 in the last five years, this is still significantly more than the number of student members added.
- The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA) has unveiled six new four-hour workshops, as the ACS Career Pathways series. CEPA trained more than 40 volunteer facilitators and the workshops are now available for regional meetings and local sections.

Realignment of Electoral Districts

- The Council VOTED 58% to 42% (via clicker vote) to shift two local sections in District II (Hampton Roads and Western Maryland) to District III. (The two local sections had agreed to the shift.) The Bylaws mandate rough equality in district populations. The shift meets the specified criteria for redistricting as required by the Bylaws and brings the districts within permissible range. During the discussion, Councilors asked the Committee on Nominations and Elections to conduct a comprehensive review of the optimal alignment of local sections within districts.

Special Discussion Item

- A special discussion item was put on the Council agenda for this meeting. ACS President Bassam Shakhshiri presented and moderated a discussion on "What major efforts should ACS pursue to help alleviate water and other global challenges?" Members of the ACS feel a responsibility as scientists and citizens to help address global challenges facing society in the 21st Century to help sustain Earth and its people. These challenges include increasing

population growth, limited natural resources, malnutrition, disease, climate change, violence and war, and the denial of basic human rights, including the right to benefit from scientific and technological progress. This discussion focused primarily on the crisis of available water suitable for drinking, agriculture and industry. Following the presentation, more than 30 Councilors engaged in a discussion of this global challenge and others and offered numerous suggestions. Councilors are invited to continue discussion of this topic within the ACS Network Councilor Group (<https://communities.acs.org/groups/councilor-group>) at <https://communities.acs.org/message/11677>.

Resolution to Honor the Memory of Glenn T. Seaborg in the Centennial Year of His Birth

- The Council passed a resolution to honor the 100th anniversary of the birth of Glenn T. Seaborg, Chemistry Nobel Laureate and past ACS President.

Update on ACS vs. Leadscope Litigation

- The Chair of the Board gave an update on the ACS vs. Leadscope litigation. As of this meeting, there was still no opinion announced by the Ohio Supreme Court on ACS's appeal in this case, despite the fact that oral arguments were presented nearly a year ago. We have no information on when an opinion might be delivered.

ACTIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board's Committees and Working Groups

- The Board of Directors received reports from its committees on Grants and Awards (G&A), Executive Compensation, and Budget and Finance (B&F); and from its working group on Society Program Portfolio Management.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Grants and Awards, the Board VOTED to approve Society nominations for the Perkin Medal and the National Science Board Public Service Award. The Perkin Medal is the highest honor in American industrial chemistry, and the National Science Board Public Service Award honors individuals and groups that have made substantial contributions increasing public understanding of science and engineering in the US.
- The Board received a briefing and approved a recommendation from its Committee on Executive Compensation. The compensation of the Society's executive staff receives regular review from the Board.
- **On the recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance (B&F), the Board VOTED to approve an advance member registration fee of \$370 for national meetings held in 2013.** The Board also considered program funding requests, and on the recommendation of B&F VOTED to reauthorize funding for inclusion in the 2013 proposed budget the *ACS Science Coaches* program and the *ACS Global Research Experiences, Exchanges, and Training Program (GREET)*.

- The Board of Directors considered two other recommendations from the Committee on Budget and Finance and VOTED that an in-depth review of the expectations for the financial goals for National Meetings be performed, and that a financial plan for the long-term viability of the *ACS Presentations on Demand* program (formerly known as Electronic Dissemination of Meeting Content) be developed and shared with B&F at its 2013 spring meeting.
- The working group on Society Program Portfolio Management briefed the Board on its activities. The working group is charged with recommending a process for portfolio management of Society programs in the divisions of Membership and Scientific Advancement, Education, the Office of Public Affairs and pilot programs.

The Executive Director/CEO Report

- The Executive Director/CEO and her direct reports updated the Board on the following: security threats faced by the Society's information technology systems and the measures in place to protect against them; a recommendation from the 2011 Financial Planning Conference that ACS identify additional revenue sources; and the activities of CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service), the ACS Publications Division, and the Society's General Counsel. The General Counsel report included an update on the ACS vs. Leadscope litigation. As a follow-up to the Publications report, the Board VOTED to approve several journal editor re-appointments.

Strategic Assessment of ACS Information Services Divisions

- As a result of the 2011 Financial Planning Conference, the ACS Board of Directors requested that the ACS Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer carry out a strategic assessment of the ACS Information Services Divisions. As a practical matter, these studies have been conducted approximately every three years to ensure that our information services divisions, CAS and ACS Publications are fulfilling ACS's strategic goals. The study was conducted over a period of nine months, with the ACS Board of Directors and the Governing Board for Publishing discussing the study at key milestones along the way. The study affirmed the robust operating performance of CAS and ACS Publications, from both mission and financial viewpoints. It commended the increasing collaboration between the divisions and their global presence, and identified areas of synergy where additional opportunities for innovation and growth should be explored.

Presidential Symposia at Philadelphia

- ACS President Bassam Z. Shkhashiri hosted several well attended symposia under the presidential theme, "Advancing Chemistry and Communicating Chemistry": a plenary lecture on "Chemistry and Climate Change" delivered by Nobel Laureate Mario Molina; the 25th anniversary of National Chemistry Week; "Communicating Controversial Science" honoring Rudy Baum on the occasion of his retirement as Editor-in-Chief of C&EN; and "150 Years of Chemistry at Land Grant Institutions: The Past as a Prelude to the Future," honoring the sesquicentennial of the Morrill Land Grant Act.

Other Society Business

- The Board also:
 - received reports from the Presidential Succession on their current and planned activities for the remainder of 2012 and 2013;
 - approved the appointment of Dr. Jerauld Skotnicki as the Coordinating Editor, ACS Presentations on Demand; and

- welcomed and received reports from international guests representing the Canadian Society for Chemistry, the German Chemical Society, the Chemical Society of Japan, and the Royal Society of Chemistry.
- The Board held a well-attended open session which featured a special forum titled “What are the ‘real world’ ethics issues faced by students and practitioners of chemistry?” Members attending this standing-room only session offered personal observations about ethical issues they have observed or been challenged by and possible options to address them.
- The ACS Leaderships Institute will be held in Dallas, Texas, January 25-27, 2013, for new committee, local section, and division chairs, and other volunteer governance members.
- In order to increase the available time for abstract submission for the ACS National Meetings, the Committee on Meetings and Expositions will be studying the feasibility of eliminating the print version on-site program books with a target of the 2013 fall national meeting in Indianapolis.
- The 25th anniversary of National Chemistry Week will be celebrated October 21-27 with the theme, “Nanotechnology – The Smallest BIG Idea in Science!” All local sections are encouraged to participate in NCW and plan an event that will recognize their coordinators.
- The 10th anniversary of Chemists Celebrate Earth Day will be celebrated in 2013. All local sections are encouraged to participate.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR COUNCILORS

The following is a list of URLs and email addresses presented on slides at the Council meeting. You will find the information noted on these sites helpful.

www.acs.org/ChemistryAmbassadors - Information on the Chemistry Ambassadors program

www.facebook.com/ChemistryAmbassadors - Chemistry Ambassadors group on Facebook

www.acs.org/getinvolved - Details regarding Innovative Project Grants through the Committee on Local Section Activities

www.acs.org/climatescience - Information on the ACS Climate Science Toolkit

outreach@acs.org – Contact email for more information on the Coins for Cleaner Water initiative

www.acs.org/bulletin5 - The ACS governing documents including certification information on unit bylaws

bylaws@acs.org – Contact email for submitting petitions and other questions regarding the governing documents

www.acs.org/ei - Information on the ACS Entrepreneurial Initiative

careers@acs.org – Email address for forwarding revisions on the Academic Professional Guidelines

www.acs.org/cpc - Information on the Council Policy Committee including the Councilor Handbook and Strategy Café Toolkit

www.acs.org/councilreports - Location for committee reports posted following the Council meeting