

COUNCILOR REPORT

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY 238th ACS NATIONAL MEETING
WASHINGTON, DC AUGUST 16-20, 2009

ACTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

Election Results

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected G. Bryan Balazs, Dawn A. Brooks, Les W. McQuire, Ingrid Montes, and Frankie K. Wood-Black to the Committee on Committees, for the 2010-2012 term.
- By electronic ballot, the Council elected M. Elizabeth Derrick, Thomas R. Gilbert, Willem R. Leenstra, and Carolyn Ribes to the Council Policy Committee, for the 2010-2012 term.
- By electronic ballot, the Council elected Dwight W. Chasar, Milagros Delgado, Kevin J. Edgar, Sharon P. Shoemaker, and Ellen B. Stechel to the Committee on Nominations and Elections, for the 2010-2012 term.

Candidates for President-Elect

- The President-Elect candidates for the fall 2009 ACS national election were announced as follows. Ballots will be mailed by September 28, 2009:

Nancy B. Jackson, International Chemical Threat Reduction Department
Manager, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM

Cheryl A. Martin, Currently on sabbatical; former Corporate Vice President and
General Manager, Rohm and Haas Company, Philadelphia, PA

Mary Virginia Orna, Professor of Chemistry, College of New Rochelle,
New Rochelle, NY

Petitions

- The Council received two amendments to the ACS Constitution and Bylaws for action: (1) The Petition on Candidate Selection by Member Petition – (to be considered for Urgent Action) and (2) the Petition on Election Timelines and Procedures 2009.

The Petition on Candidate Selection by Member Petition proposes to permit candidates to be selected by a petition process from members. After considerable discussion, a vote to consider the petition at the 2009 fall meeting (i.e., “Urgent Action”) FAILED. Absent urgent action, the Petition on Candidate Selection by Member Petition will now be up for action at the 2010 spring meeting of the Council.

Next, the Council discussed in great detail the Petition on Election Timelines and Procedures 2009. This petition proposes to shorten certain election timelines and change petition candidates (who go straight on the ballot if they obtain enough signatures) to petition nominees (who need to be screened by Council along with other nominees chosen by the Committee on Nominations and Elections). After rejecting a request to have a recorded vote, the Council VOTED to recommit the petition to the Committee on Nominations and Elections with instructions. Following this action, N&E sought input* through a nonbinding survey to help guide their revisions. A revised petition will likely be up for action at the 2010 spring Council meeting.

* The three questions asked were

- 1) Is it important to shorten the timeline for the election? Majority: Yes
- 2) Is it important for all members to be vetted by Council? 50/50
- 3) How would candidate positions be best transmitted to voters?

[Top three in order of preference: (a) C&ENews commentary (b) Town Hall Meeting at a National Meeting (c) Appearance in Council]

Registration Report

As of August 19, 2009, the ACS fall national meeting had attracted 14,319 registrants. This was the largest Washington meeting in history. Totals in select categories are as follows: Regular attendees 8,575; Students 3,159; Guests 462; Exhibit Only 676; and Exhibitors 1,447. The Meetings and Expositions Committee recommended an increase of \$10 for the 2010 National Meeting registration fee.

Membership Activity

- The provisions of the Petition on Membership Categories and Requirements were fully implemented this past June with the transfer of former Student Affiliates to Student Member status, and Associate Members to regular Member status. As of July 31, the Society had 9,732 Student Members – 6,500 of them former Student Affiliates and more than 3,000 of them new Student Members.
- Council VOTED to disband the Division of Chemical Technicians effective December 31, 2009. DAC agreed that TECH has accomplished its mission of enhancing the status of technicians in the American Chemical Society, and now they are integrated into the other technical divisions.

ACTIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- The Committee on Public Affairs and Public Relations announced the designation of “Dip-and-read Tests for Blood and Urine Glucose” (work of Al and Helen Free) as a National Historic Chemical Landmark.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance, the Board VOTED to fund a new program (Science Coaches) in the 2010 budget, as recommended by the

Board–Presidential Task Force on Education ; this task force was charged with 1) reviewing recommendations contained in national STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education reports released during the past five years; 2) identifying specific actions that the Society could undertake in response to these recommendations; and 3) creating a priority list of actionable items where the Society can have a unique impact on STEM education.

The Society’s Finances

- In view of the ongoing global recession and its impact of the Society’s finances, the Board received an update on the Society’s current financial position and the projected financial performance for 2009. The Society is projected to end the year with a net contribution from operations of \$11.2 million, or \$528,000 favorable to the 2009 approved budget. The favorable projection is largely the result of Contingency Plan actions and expense management initiatives implemented in early 2009, which are expected to fully offset revenue shortfalls in the Approved Budget across several categories.

Other Society Issues

- The Board received a briefing from its Chair on her recent meeting with International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) leaders and plans for the International Year of Chemistry-2011 (IYOC-2011). The overall theme of the IYOC will be **Water**, and the 4 thrusts (one per quarter) will be
 - Environment in the 1st quarter,
 - Energy in the 2nd quarter (CCED)
 - Materials in the 3rd Quarter (NCW)
 - and Health in the 4th quarter.
- There will be 2 major publications during the year - these will be in English, as well as in 5 other languages on the web. Scientists (especially females) will be recognized during the year.
- The Board received a briefing on a program to equip ACS members to be more effective spokespersons for chemistry. It is called the Chemistry Ambassadors program, and information may be found at www.acs.org/chemistryambassadors.

Other News from the Meeting

There was a 25th Anniversary Celebration of the ACS’s participation in the International Chemistry Olympiad program.

The Society Committee on Education (SOCED) has commissioned a Task Force to develop a uniform set of outcomes for Gen Chem I

The ACS Network has approximately 19,600 members, and it is now open to non-ACS members as well.

The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs is providing webinars and other virtual career fairs at acs.org/careers

The Leadership Conference for 2010 will be held in Fort Worth, Texas, in January 22-24; newly-elected officers are **urged** to attend.

The redesigned Speakers Service is available. Initially Speakers on the roster will be drawn from those previously highly recommended; Local Sections will be encouraged to cooperate in forming "tours" to keep their expenses reasonable. Local Sections are requested to recommend speakers, whom they had invited and whom they considered outstanding, for inclusion in the newly developed speaker's list. Deb McLaughlin retired as of August 21, 2009.

Merck Indexes will be delivered to Local Sections in early September.

Rumor has it that element 112 will be named in honor of Copernicus
– Copernicum? Copernicium? Cp? Cn?
Stay tuned.