

COUNCILOR REPORT
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
239th ACS NATIONAL MEETING
SAN FRANCISCO, CA MARCH 21-25, 2010

ACTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

Election Results

The Council selected Luis A. Echegoyen (most recently NSF Chemistry Division Director) and Bassam Z. Shakhashiri (Professor of Chemistry at U of Wisconsin – Madison and Science-Is-Fun presenter) as candidates for 2011 President-Elect for ACS. These two candidates, along with any candidates nominated via petitions, will stand for election in the Fall National Election.

Councilors from District II (our District) selected George M. Bodner and Joseph R. Peterson as candidates to represent our District on the Board of Directors; ballots will be mailed on or before October 10 to all members of our District for election of one of them as our Director.

Petitions to Amend the Constitution and Bylaws

The Council received three amendments to the ACS Constitution and Bylaws **for action**: The Petition on Admissions Committee, the Petition on Candidate Selection by Member Petition, and the Petition on Election Timelines 2009.

The Council VOTED to approve the Petition on Admissions Committee. This petition removes the Admission Committee from the Bylaws and transfers its functions to the Council Committee on Membership Affairs.

After considerable debate, a motion to approve the Petition for a Constitutional amendment concerning Candidate Selection by Member Petition FAILED. The Petition on Candidate Selection by Member Petition would have moved the language stating that candidates selected by a petition process from the Bylaws to the Constitution.

The Council also thoroughly debated the merits of the Petition on Election Timelines 2009. The motion to approve this petition FAILED. The Petition on Election Timelines 2009 would have shortened certain national election timelines.

The Council received three petitions **for consideration**: The Petition on International Chemical Sciences Chapters, Petition on President-Elect Eligibility, and Petition on Recorded Votes. The Petition on International Chemical Sciences Chapters provides for travel funds for either the Chair or Chair-Elect of International Chemical Sciences Chapters to attend governance meetings at twice the amount allotted for a Councilor. The Petition on President-Elect Eligibility requires that nominees or candidates for President-Elect come from an academic background every other election, and that those from non-academic backgrounds be eligible in the alternate years. The Petition on Recorded Votes provides for additional voting methods, e.g., clickers that have been recently used at Council meetings, when conducting recorded votes. Action is expected on these petitions at the Fall Council meeting.

The Society's Finances

The Council and Board of Directors learned that the Society's total 2009 revenues (\$460 million) was up by 1% from 2008, but fell short of the 2009 approved budget by \$19.5 million or 4.1%.

Fortunately, the revenue shortfall was fully anticipated in early 2009. Significant reductions were realized in salaries and fringe benefits, and in discretionary accounts such as travel, training, and professional services. As a result, the Society's Net Return from Operations was \$13.7 million, or \$3.0 million greater than anticipated in the 2009 Approved Budget.

The financial outlook for 2010 is better, and ACS management expects the Society to meet the 2010 approved budget.

2011 Member Dues

The Council VOTED to set the member dues for 2011 at the fully escalated rate of \$146. This rate is established pursuant to an inflation-adjustment formula in the ACS Constitution and Bylaws.

Local Section Allotment Calculator

The Council VOTED to continue for three years the current formula for determining allotments to Local Sections.

Member Statistics

At the close of 2009, Society membership totaled 161,783 compared to 154,024 for year-end 2008. The number of new membership applications received last year was the highest ever. The 2009 number also reflects the transition of 6,658 former Student Affiliates to the new student member category in June 2009 and the recruitment of 6,341 new student member undergraduates. 1,530 members were dropped from the rolls for lack of payment of dues. 11,473 of our members are Student Members.

Spring Meeting (San Francisco) Attendance Report

As of March 24, 2010, the ACS Spring national meeting had attracted 18,076 registrants as follows: Regular attendees, 9,715; Students, 5,705; Exhibitors, 1,219; Exposition only, 923; and Guests, 514.

ACTIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Executive Director/CEO Report

The Executive Director/CEO, along with several of her direct reports, updated the Board on the activities of Chemical Abstracts Service, the Publications Division, and the Society's General Counsel. As a follow-up, the Board VOTED to approve a new appointment and three reappointments of journal editors.

Other Society Issues

The Board received reports from several international guests representing the following scientific societies: Brazilian Chemical Society, the Chemical Society for Canada, the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS), the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).

The 2010 ChemCensus will be sent to 87,000 ACS members in 2010; prompt response is urged.

A concerted effort is underway to make the ACS website "flatter" and "more transparent".

The Presidential succession has endorsed Past-President Tom Lane's incentives to recruit new members, so for the next couple of years a financial incentive will continue to be offered for every member recruited by a Section.

Webinars dealing with employment issues will be conducted at regular intervals; resources helpful to unemployed members can be found at www.acs.org/unemployed

The Committee on Community Activities held an Outreach to visitors at the California Academy of Sciences on Saturday, March 19, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This was a very well-attended activity and was also well staffed by students from Student Affiliate groups.

National Lab Day (www.nationallabday.org) was broadly advertised and we were encouraged to check the website for opportunities to partner with those teachers seeking help for their students' science interests; the dates targeted for this initial effort are May 5 and 6, but the website will be available for ongoing consultation and involvement with interested teachers/schools.

Emphasis was given to the soon celebration of CCED 2010 – **Plants The Green Machines**, and NCW 2010 whose theme is **Behind the Scenes with Chemistry** (the chemistry used in movies and theater); the thematic content for NCW 2012 will be centered around nanoscale science.

In 2010 39 Sections submitted 79 ChemLuminary self-nominations for NCW-event awards.

Local Sections were also urged to participate in the **International Year of Chemistry 2011**, whose overarching themes will be *Water and the Many Faces of Chemistry* (with an emphasis on women chemists) with *quarterly themes* relating, in order, to the *Environment, Energy, Sustainability, and Health*. Unfortunately, ACS's bid to design a commemorative stamp for the IYC was not successful.

News from the Local Section Activities Committee

- 109/189 US Local Sections sent representatives to the Leadership Conference in San Antonio in February
- Local Sections were urged to **conduct their elections according to their Bylaws**.
- Nanogrants and Science Café' grants will continue to be given to Local Sections
- The **Annual Report** is being **redesigned** to be more "user-friendly" – to be ready for 2011
- Local Section Partnership Awards will continue to be given for meaningful collaborations which broaden the influence of chemists and chemistry in the community.
- Awards are available for hosting the Leadership Development Courses on-site as well as partial scholarships for attendance at these Courses.
- The restructured **Speaker Program** was a matter of **extensive discussion**; subject to submission of a report by the recipient Section, a \$400/yr grant is available to a Local Section to help defray expenses associated with inviting speakers (based on recommendations and sample presentations which will be available for viewing online); cooperation/communication with nearby Sections was encouraged to keep costs manageable.

Submitted by Lydia E. M. Hines
Councilor