

## COUNCILOR'S REPORT - AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

242nd NATIONAL MEETING DENVER, CO, August 28 to September 1, 2011

### General items:

- Chemical Abstracts Service will have a new academic/public pricing option available in the summer of 2012
- The ACS won a \$1 million grant for public outreach through science cafés, science kits free to teachers, participation in Science Festivals nationwide and internationally
- The **Committee on Community Activities (CCA)** continued its promotion of the Pennies for PUR<sup>R</sup> [water] fund-raiser {"show that Chemists have a heart as well as a brain"} and encouraged further participation in the **IYC water experiment** by local schools (information at [water.chemistry2011.org](http://water.chemistry2011.org)).
- Local Sections were encouraged to **collect hygiene products and/or food items** for distribution to local food pantries, in connection with our NCW 2011 whose theme is "Health".
- CCA announced that the **2012 NCW** (25<sup>th</sup> anniversary) theme will focus on "all things nano", and the **2012 CCED** theme will be "Rethinking Recycling - It's Easy to be Green". 2013 will mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CCED. The **2013 NCW** theme will focus on energy (Jeff Trent) and the focus of the **2014 NCW** theme will be candy (Ron d'Amelia)
- Improvements continue to be made to FORMS. A plea was made for Local Sections to include reports of activities as they occur during the year.
- There is "Local Section App" ?????
- The \$400 stipend for use of the Speakers Service will be extended through 2012. The roster has 80 speakers and they are looking for recommendations for additional ones – ACS membership is not required to be a speaker)
- After the 2 successful nanogrants for co-programming with Student Members and for an IYC activity, the **Local Section Activities Committee (LSAC)** is now offering a third round nanogrant to be used for **membership retention**.
- **LSAC** also has funding available to offer scholarships for Student Member leaders to apply to attend Leadership Institute for undergraduates.
- ACS has a **Multidisciplinary Program Planning Group (MPPG)** – it consists of representatives of technical divisions and several of the society committees - which serves as the forum for the technical divisions to select the theme for each National Meeting. Any member who would like to have a say in the selection of future themes, or wants to help out with theme-related programs, can get in touch with me (Lydia E. M. Hines at [lemhwgh@gmail.com](mailto:lemhwgh@gmail.com)). The current list of thematic programming can be found on p. 63 of the January 31, 2011 issue of C&ENews; it extends to the Fall 2013 National Meeting in Indianapolis.

### ACTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

#### By electronic ballot, the Council elected

- Rigoberto Hernandez, Helen (Bonnie) A. Lawlor, Zaida C. Morales-Martinez, Howard

M. Peters and Sara J. Risch for the 2012-2014 term on the **Committee on Committees**.

- Lawrence Barton, Peter C. Jurs, Mamie W. Moy, and Eleanor D. Siebert for the 2012-2014 term on the **Council Policy Committee**.
- William H. (Jack) Breazeale, Jr., Catherine C. Fenselau, **Lydia E. M. Hines**, Anne T. O'Brien, and Andrea Twiss-Brooks for the 2012-2014 term on the **Committee on Nominations and Elections**

**The candidates for President-Elect were announced** as follows:

- Dr. Dennis Chamot, Associate Executive Director, Division of Engineering and Physical Sciences, National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC
- Dr. Marinda Li Wu, Founder and President, Science is Fun!, Orinda, CA

### **Petitions**

The Council VOTED to approve the Petition on Position Statements, which allows for clear and consistent position development for the Society. The petition assures that the Board of Directors has sole authority in issuing position statements that establish policy for the full Society; and that Society bodies other than the Board may issue statements on issues that fall solely in their jurisdiction so long as they do not impair other Society bodies' ability to do the same. The Board of Directors will vote within 90 days on whether to ratify the approved petition.

### **Committee Review**

As part of a regular performance review, the Council VOTED to continue the joint Board-Council Committees on Community Activities and on Publications. Continuation of these two committees also requires Board of Directors concurrence.

### **Meeting Registration Report**

As of September 1, 2011, the ACS Fall National meeting had attracted **10,076 registrants**: Regular attendees 6,088; Students 2,376; Guests 218; Exhibit Only 394; and Exhibitors 1,000.

### **Membership Activity**

The Society's overall membership number remains stable at near 163,000. As of July 31 the total number of Student Members stands at 15,702 and that membership category is growing rapidly. The committee is concentrating its efforts on retaining current members.

### **Special Discussion Item**

President Nancy Jackson presented and moderated a discussion on how ACS can best cultivate a **culture of safety in US universities and colleges**. At the 2011 Spring ACS national meeting in Anaheim, the Committee on Chemical Safety launched an effort to identify ways to assist academia in strengthening and building strong **safety cultures**.

Devastating incidents in academic laboratories, and observations by many that graduates do not have strong safety skills have elevated concerns about the **safety culture** in academia. Following Dr. Jackson's presentation, Councilors engaged in robust discussion on this very timely topic, with numerous suggestions by 42 different Councilors. [The emphasis was on the **need for enforcement of safety requirements in the academic environment**. (Comment: The Committee on Professional Training (CPT) is revising its safety supplement; however, concern was expressed about the fact that CPT does not have the power to enforce safety monitoring/teaching as a requirement in its CPT-approved programs)] The (federal) Chemical Safety Board (CSB) has a lot of videos which can be accessed at [www.csb.gov](http://www.csb.gov) The **Committee on Chemical Safety (CCS)** at ACS can be accessed through [www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org) – search for “safety”, or by sending an e-mail to their staff liaison Marta Gmurczyk, whose e-address is [m\\_gmurczyk@acs.org](mailto:m_gmurczyk@acs.org)

### **Changes in Technical Divisions**

- The Council VOTED to grant full Division status to the previously probationary Division of Catalysis Science and Technology, and to approve the proposed bylaws of this division.
- After a lively discussion the Council VOTED 53% - 47% to dissolve the Division of Petroleum Chemistry and to combine its assets and members with those of the Division of Fuel Chemistry under the new name of the Division of Energy and Fuels, effective December 31, 2011. **The discussion centered largely around the name, rather than the merger.**

### **Employment, Economic, and Professional Activities**

ACS has created **new programs to assist unemployed members and new resources for all members**, from students to seasoned professionals. The first ever fully integrated onsite and **virtual career fair** in Denver offered job seekers and virtual participants via webcam the opportunity to interact with each other and to connect with prospective employers and programs to sharpen their career skills.

Because networking is especially important in a down economy, CEPA and ACS Career Services co-sponsored the largest **networking** event in ACS history. The ACS Global Networking Reception allowed Denver attendees and others to attend a seminar entitled “Networking 101 – Making Your Contacts Count,” and then practice networking with local sections, student chapters, international chapters, and individuals all over the world joined electronically.

The Presidential Task Force on Innovation and Job Creation released their report, entitled “Innovation, Chemistry and Jobs.” The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA) and Corporation Associates co-sponsored a new program funding request to **establish an entrepreneurial initiative** which would establish an educational program to guide budding entrepreneurs through the creation

of new chemical businesses and support the formation of new chemical companies by providing access to the unparalleled informational resources of the Society, as well as other professional resources. The initiative was approved by the Board, and will be implemented early in 2012.

CEPA is also working with ACS President Nancy Jackson, members of the Board, and other committees on the "Paying It forward" campaign emphasizing the need for, and importance of, members helping members. President Jackson asks each of the Society's more than 163,000 members to help unemployed members by taking specific action now.

In another exciting initiative, the Chemical Entrepreneurship Council (CEC) has assembled. The group consists of the Women Chemists Committee, the Committee on Science, the Division of Small Chemical Businesses, the Division of Business Development and Management, the National Collegiate Inventors and the Innovators Alliance. This self-organized working group is concerned with **providing the resources and skills necessary for chemists to translate research into innovations which can become commercial products.**

#### **Update on ACS vs. Leadscope Litigation**

The Chair of the Board reported that ACS has appealed to the Ohio State Supreme Court and that the Court has agreed to hear the case; it has scheduled oral arguments for September 7 in Columbus, Ohio.

#### **ACTIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

On the recommendation of the Committee on Professional & Member Relations, the Board VOTED to approve guidelines for weighing selection and engagement in human rights cases, wherever they occur.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance (B&F), the Board VOTED to approve an **advance member registration fee of \$360 for national meetings held in 2012.**

The Board also VOTED to reauthorize funding for the following programs in 2012:

- ACS Fellows
- ACS Leadership
- ACS Scholars
- ACS Global Research Experiences, Exchanges, and Training Program (GREET) and to include funding in the 2012 and 2013 budget for a **new program**
- ACS Entrepreneurship Initiative

After some discussion, the Board VOTED, as recommended by B&F, to adopt a **non-councilor reimbursement policy, effective 2012**, which would allow

reimbursement (at the rate of **50% of the Councilor travel reimbursement**) of **travel costs to committee meetings** held during the ACS national meetings for non-councilor committee members.

The Board held a lively, well-attended open session which featured a special forum on what the ACS is doing, or can do, to assist members who are facing employment challenges in uncertain economic times. Members attending this standing-room only session received a brief overview of current and planned resources available to members who are facing employment challenges, followed by an open discussion on how the Society might offer greater assistance.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The following is a list of URLs and email addresses where you may find helpful information.

[www.acs.org/acspresidents](http://www.acs.org/acspresidents) - Information on ACS past presidents

[prehistory@acs.org](mailto:prehistory@acs.org) - contact information for inclusion or correction if errors on the ACS presidency website

[www.acs.org/creatingjobs](http://www.acs.org/creatingjobs) - Location for the ACS Task Force on Innovation report, "Innovation, Chemistry and Jobs"

[www.acs.org/iyc2011](http://www.acs.org/iyc2011) - Location for International Year of Chemistry activities

<https://communities.acs.org/message/8125#8125> - A link on the ACS Network for ACS Strategic Plan Discussion - public

[Strategicplan@acs.org](mailto:Strategicplan@acs.org) - Contact information for questions/comments regarding the Society's strategic plan

[safety@acs.org](mailto:safety@acs.org) - Contact information for questions/comments about laboratory safety

[www.acswebinars.org/vcf2011](http://www.acswebinars.org/vcf2011) - Information on the ACS webinars and virtual career fairs

[www.acs.org/bechemists](http://www.acs.org/bechemists) - Information on a campaign to remind recent graduates of the benefits of ACS membership

[outreach@acs.org](mailto:outreach@acs.org) - Contact information on outreach activities through the Committee on Community Activities

Lydia Hines, Councilor