

COUNCILOR'S REPORT FROM THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
244th NATIONAL MEETING PHILADELPHIA, PA
AUGUST 19-23, 2012

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

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

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

- The Council received an amendment (petition) to the ACS Constitution and Bylaws for consideration: 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 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 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. There is a high rate of attrition among young members.

- 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**.
- The Council passed a resolution to honor the 100th anniversary of the birth of Glenn T. Seaborg, Chemistry Nobel Laureate and past ACS President.
- It was announced that Local Section Annual Report reviews are available on FORMS for downloading.

Special Discussion Item

- A special discussion item was put on the Council agenda for this meeting. ACS President Bassam Shakhashiri 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>. Comments ranged from “We must learn to conserve water, starting with our youth” to “ACS should offer a \$ prize for the development of an inexpensive water-purification system which can be used on a large scale”. **The Coins for Cleaner Water (formerly Pennies for PUR) collection will continue throughout 2013.**

Information from The Board of Directors’ Committees and Working Groups

- 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 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 Executive Director/CEO Report

- The Executive Director/CEO and her direct reports updated the Board on security threats faced by the Society's information technology systems and the measures in place to protect against them, and on a recommendation from the 2011 Financial Planning Conference that ACS identify additional revenue sources

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. The study affirmed the robust operating performance of CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service) 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. The issue of Open Access to published information continues to be a matter of concern.

Other Society Business

- 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.** The theme will be "Our Earth: Handle with care"
- The "theme" for Bridging the Gap nanogrants this year is "Planning for Success" – to be used for budget development, bylaw revisions, etc.
- As of this Meeting, 181/187 Local Section ARs had been received for review by the Local Section Activities Committee.
- In the 2nd half of 2012, 20/27 Innovative Project Grants (IPG) had been approved. IPGs are intended to provide seed money to start up activities new to a Section. Over 10 years 400 IPGs had been awarded for a total of \$845,000.

The following is a list of useful URLs and email addresses:

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

www.acs.org/getinvolved - Information from 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 outreach initiatives

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

careers@acs.org – Email address for helpful career information

www.acs.org/cpc - Information pertaining to the Councilor Handbook and Strategy Café Toolkit

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

REGIONAL MEETING ISSUES

- The Great Lakes Region (GLR) contact from the Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E) is Tony Addison (addisona@drexel.edu)
- Due to the regularly-scheduled Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting the **first weekend of June** and the desire of a BOD representative to attend Regional Meetings that weekend **should be avoided when scheduling.**
- Funding for programing at Regional Meetings (RM) is available from ACS Divisions, and should be applied for in a timely manner; if no funding is available there may be expertise availability.
- For RM planners' information, the next RM Planning Conference will be held in Washington DC on Sept 21-23
- **A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the 2015 Joint Great Lakes Central Regional Meeting (JGLCRM) needs to be in place no later than December 2012 – a sample has been requested from the RM Office.**

Submitted by Lydia E. M. Hines
Section Councilor