

# American Chemical Society      ACS Fall 2023 Meeting San Francisco, California, August 13-17, 2023

(edited by KACS Councilor Lydia E. M. Hines)

---

## Key Actions of the Council, August 16, 2023

### Election Results: Elected Committees of Council

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected Martha G. Hollomon, Elizabeth M. Howson, Jeanette M. Van Emon, and Lydia E. M. Hines for a three-year term (2024-2026) on the **Council Policy Committee (CPC)**. James C. Carver was elected for a one-year term from 2024-2025.
- By electronic ballot, the Council elected Anna G. Cavinato, Andrea B. Twiss-Brooks, Thomas R. Gilbert, Jeanne R. Berk, and W. Matthew Reichert for a three-year term (2024-2026) on the **Committee on Committees (ConC)**.
- By electronic ballot, the Council elected Linette M. Watkins, Arlene A. Garrison, Zaida C. Morales Martinez, Amber F. Charlebois, and Jetty L. Duffy-Matzner for a three-year term (2024-2026) on the **Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E)**. Kevin J. Edgar was elected for a one-year term from 2024-2025.

### Highlights from Reports and Key Actions

Chief Executive Officer Albert Horvath **honored the memory of our newly-appointed Editor-in-Chief of C&EN, Mohammed Yahia, who passed away on the way to the San Francisco meeting.** Our thoughts go out to his wife Ola and their two young children.

Horvath also shared ACS's efforts to engage more members while recruiting and retaining talented staff as we continue to adapt to the post-pandemic workplace. He shared an update on the ACS Strategic Initiatives and the Society's continued strong financial performance.

On the recommendation of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition to Amend the Council Executive Function. This amendment codifies the current practice in the Standing Rules, removing the oral reporting requirement for non-elected Society Committees. CPC welcomes oral reports from all Society Committees including those without action before Council.

CPC voted to discontinue the Councilor Travel Expense Program, effective December 31, 2023, and replace it with the Councilor Attendance Incentive Allotment, effective January 1, 2024. This new approach will provide a single payment of \$2,000 per Councilor, per meeting, directly to Local Sections and Divisions that opt in to the program.

CPC also voted to move oversight for the Non-Councilor Reimbursement Program to the Committee on Committees with the recommendation that it be renamed the "Volunteer Committee Reimbursement Program."

On the recommendation of the Committee on Committees, and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition to Amend the Duties of the Committee on International Activities (IAC), providing the committee with the same authority permitted to its unit counterparts to assist International Chemical Sciences Chapters with issues arising from officer turnover and other administrative difficulties.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Nominations and Elections, and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition to Add International Representation to the Board of Directors, decreasing the total number of Directors-at-Large from six to five and creating an International District Director. Following approval by the Board of Directors, the amendment to the ACS Constitution will require the support of two-thirds (2/3) majority of voting members.

On the recommendation of the Committee on International Activities, Council approved the creation of the Singapore International Chemical Sciences Chapter.

The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) reported the certification of bylaws for six Local Sections in 2023: Cornell, East Tennessee, Idaho, Puerto Rico, Tennessee-Virginia Highlands, and Wooster.

**The Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E) reported that as of August 16, there were 15,019 registrations (13,363 in-person and 1,656 online).** Participants logged in from 80 international sites.

There was discussion on possible term limits for councilors, as there are many who choose not to contribute their input to any of the 30+ committees which are available to them for participation.

The **ACS Membership now stands at approximately 100,000**. There are an additional ~85,000 non-dues paying "interested" individuals who are NOT ACS members; they are identified as "Community Associates" and receive minimal complimentary benefits from ACS.

[See <https://www.acs.org/membership.html> for more specifics about each category] Members who do not pay their dues within 60 days of receipt of their renewal reminder notices are removed from the membership rolls and are re-categorized as Community Associates.

### **Council Special Discussion**

ACS President Judith Giordan introduced and led a special 30-minute discussion on "ACS Council: Equitable Governance for the Future." She sought Councilor input on ideas to improve representation, broadly defined, on Council and across ACS governance.

- Three specific prompts were posed to Councilors for their input and suggestions:
1. Ideally, for ACS Council to equitably represent all members we would...
  2. The key areas where we need to ensure greater equity and inclusion in Council are...
  3. I wish ACS Council would/could... ..to engender greater equity and inclusion.

In one-minute comments several councilors provided their ideas and thoughts; relevant Society units will receive this input within the next several weeks. Please share further input with [secretary@acs.org](mailto:secretary@acs.org).

## **Resolutions**

The Council passed several resolutions:

- In memory of deceased Past President Ned D. Heindel
- In memory of deceased Past President Paul H.L. Walter
- In memory of deceased councilors
- In appreciation of the California and Silicon Valley Sections, host Sections for the fall 2023 ACS meeting, the Divisional program chairs, symposium organizers, and ACS staff for the planning and execution of the meeting
- In appreciation of the outgoing Chair of Council, Judith C. Giordan

## **Actions of the Board of Directors - Executive Session**

The ACS Board of Directors met in Executive Session on August 11-12, 2023, in San Francisco, California.

### **Chief Executive Officer's Report**

Chief Executive Officer Albert Horvath reported on issues relating to ACS strategic activities; enterprise risk management (ERM); environmental, social, and governance (ESG); an Orlando 2028 meeting update; and ACS's web presence.

### **Board Committees and Working Groups**

The Board of Directors received and discussed reports from the Governing Board for Publishing, the Board Committee on Professional and Member Relations, the Society Committee on Publications, the Committee on Budget & Finance, the Committee on Committees, the Board Working Group on Structure and Representation, and the Council Policy Committee Future Council Representation Task Force

- Upon recommendation of the Committee on Professional and Member Relations, the Board approved the ACS Prism Award to recognize a public figure or prominent leader in their field who has a background in chemistry but is working in a different field or is not a practicing chemist.
- Upon recommendation of the Committee on Professional and Member Relations, the Board approved an ACS nominee for the 2024 Perkin Medal, an award given annually by the Society of Chemical Industry to a scientist residing in the United States for an "innovation in applied chemistry resulting in outstanding commercial development."

- The Board Working Group on Structure and Representation provided an update on their efforts to add an International District Director to the Board of Directors in the form of the Petition to Add International Representation on the Board of Directors. The Board unanimously supported the petition, which would amend the ACS Constitution and Standing Rules.

### Other Society Business

There were two additional discussions; one focused on raising items of strategic concern from members of the Board, and the second was dedicated to sharing feedback so Board members can hear from ACS members, elevating their voices to all Board members.

\*\*\*\*\*

The following is a list of URLs and email addresses for supplemental information offered in oral reports at the Council meeting.

#### Officers

Judith C. Giordan, President

[j.giordan@acs.org](mailto:j.giordan@acs.org)

Mary K. Carroll, President-Elect

[marycarroll-ac@union.edu](mailto:marycarroll-ac@union.edu)

Angela K. Wilson, Immediate Past President

[a.wilson@acs.org](mailto:a.wilson@acs.org)

#### ACS Offices

Office of the Secretary & General Counsel

[secretary@acs.org](mailto:secretary@acs.org)

#### Resources for Councilors

Nominations for President, Director, and Elected Committees

[nominations.acs.org](http://nominations.acs.org)

ACS Governing Documents

[www.acs.org/govdocs](http://www.acs.org/govdocs)

Yellow Book

[www.yellowbook.acs.org](http://www.yellowbook.acs.org)