

American Chemical Society ACS Spring 2024 Meeting New Orleans, Louisiana March 17-21, 2024

Councilor Talking Points edited by Lydia E. M. Hines, KACS
councilor

Actions of the Council

Candidates for President-Elect, 2025

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) presented to the Council the following *nominees* for selection as *candidates* for President-Elect, 2025: Rigoberto Hernandez, Thomas Holme, Ingrid Montes, and Laura Sremaniak. **By electronic ballot, the Council selected Rigoberto Hernandez and Laura Sremaniak as candidates for 2025 President-Elect.** These two candidates will join **Mukund Chorghade**, a petition candidate, and any additional candidates, selected via petitions, to stand for election in the fall 2024 national election.

Candidates for District V

- N&E announced the results of the election held prior to the Council meeting to select candidates from the list of nominees for Directors from District V. **By electronic ballot, the Councilors selected Lisa M. Balbes, Mark C. Cesa, and Silvia S. Jurisson as District V candidates;** ballots will be distributed to members around October 1, 2024.

Candidates for Directors-at-Large

- In November, the Petition to Add International Representation on the Board of Directors was approved and ratified. As a result of its implementation, beginning in 2025 there is a reduction of the total number of Directors-at-Large (DAL) on the Board of Directors from six to five. Because of the timing of candidate selection and petition approval processes, N&E opted to select the usual four candidates for the two possible DAL positions in case the petition failed; however, one candidate withdrew, leaving three candidates. Preferential voting will be used in accordance with Standing Rule IV, Section 4., c.
- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of the following **candidates for Director-at-Large** for the 2025-2027 term: **Christopher J. Bannochie, Natalie A. LaFranzo, and Sergio C. Nanita.** The election of one Director-at-Large from among these three candidates, and any selected via petition, will be conducted in the Fall. Ballots will be distributed to the Council around October 1, 2024.

Highlights from Committee Reports and Key Actions

- On the recommendation of the Council Policy Committee (CPC), Council approved the Petition to Remove Inconsistencies and Add Missing Provisions. The petition clarifies language about membership on the elected committees of Council and adds a provision for filling a vacancy in the position of Director-at-Large. This petition is now presented to the ACS Board of Directors for action.

- On the recommendation of the Committee on Committees (ConC), and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition to Amend the Duties of the Committee on Budget and Finance (B&F) to better reflect their charge of making recommendations on the Society's budget for approval by the Board of Directors. The petition also removes an outdated provision to reflect that the funding of the official organ of the Society has been made independent from dues revenue. This petition is now presented to the ACS Board of Directors for action.
- ConC announced that the opening of the online preference form to all ACS members began on March 1 and will run through July 1, Councilors interested in serving on an ACS Committee in 2025 should go to [CMTE.acs.org](https://cmte.acs.org) to submit their preferences.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Divisional Activities (DAC), Council approved **changing the name** of the Division of Biological Chemistry (BIOL) **to the Division of Biochemistry and Chemical Biology (BIOL)**. This name change will take effect January 1, 2025.
- On the recommendation of DAC, Council approved an amendment to the distribution formula for Division funding. This will allow a greater amount of funding to be distributed to Divisions.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on International Activities (IAC), Council approved the **creation of International Chemical Sciences Chapters in Egypt and Guangdong, China**, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC), Council approved changing the name of the Auburn Section to the East Alabama/West Georgia Section. This name change will take effect on January 1, 2025.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Membership Affairs (MAC) and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition on Dues and Benefits to **change the name of the Schedule of Membership to the Schedule of Dues and Benefits**. The petition also defines the role of Community Associates. This petition will now be presented to the ACS Board of Directors for action.
- On the recommendation of MAC, and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the 2025 **Schedule of Dues and Benefits**.
- The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) reported the certification of bylaws for four Local Sections (Columbus, Permian Basin, University of Arkansas, and Central Pennsylvania), five technical Divisions (Colloid and Surface Chemistry, Biological Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry, Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, and Environmental Chemistry), and two International Chemical Sciences Chapters (Singapore and Switzerland) since the fall 2023 meeting.
- The Society Committee on Education (SOCED) invited students to participate in a SOCED Discussion Session to be held in conjunction with the ACS Fall 2024 meeting in Denver, and invited Councilors to their upcoming virtual open meeting on April 25.
- The Committee on Younger Chemists (YCC) plans to expand the concept of Local Section Younger Chemists Committees to include International Chemical Sciences Chapters and reported on the inaugural Younger Chemists' Caucus and their plans to continue holding this event.

Resolutions

The Council passed several resolutions:

- In memory of deceased Councilors.
- **In recognition of ACS Secretary, Flint Lewis, on the occasion of his retirement after 28 years.**
- In sincere appreciation of the Louisiana Section, host Section for the ACS Spring 2024 meeting, the Divisional program chairs, symposium organizers, and ACS staff for the planning and execution of the meeting.

The ACS Spring 2024 meeting was held from March 17 – 21. As of March 19, there were 14,368 registrations (13,122 in-person and 1,246 online). The ACS Fall 2024 meeting will be held in Denver, CO from August 18 – 22, 2024.

General news:

- **CPC** announced that the successful Sunday evening **post-caucus Councilor networking reception** initiated in the Fall of 2023 **will be repeated at the Fall meeting in Denver**
- **CCA** announced that they are in the process of building an “Activities Library”.
- The **2024 National Chemistry Week (NCW) theme is “Picture - Perfect Chemistry” and the Program-in-a-Box** will likely be making a **come-back for the 2024 NCW**
- The **2025 Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW) theme is “Hot Topics, Cool Chemistry”** (in recognition of the International Year of Glacier Preservation)
- The **2025 NCW general topic is “The Chemistry of Spices (not just in foods)** – “The hidden life of spices”
- The 2026 CCEW general topic will be Flowers or Forests
- **LSAC** announced that there are now more than 1,000 speakers in the Speakers Directory.
- **LSAC** also urged that Local Section Officers read the monthly Officers Insight and participate in the monthly webinars offered on various topics of interest to Local Sections

Actions of the Board of Directors - Executive Session

The CEO and his staff reported on the 150th anniversary of ACS (2026), the ACS DEIR Maturity Model, the future of ACS meetings, the ACS brand, financials, and other ACS activities. This was followed by a strategic discussion on sustainability. The CEO also **introduced the new ACS General Counsel, Tokë Vandervoort**, who joined ACS on March 4.

The Board received and discussed reports from the Governing Board for Publishing as well as its Committees on Professional and Member Relations, Executive Compensation, Audits & Risk Management, and Pensions and Investments.

- Upon recommendation of the Committee on Professional and Member Relations (P&MR), the Board approved recommendations for **establishing the Dong Qin ACS Award in Nanochemistry, the 2025 Othmer Gold Medal nominee, and the screened lists of five nominees each for the 2025 Priestley Medal and the 2025 Award for Volunteer Service to the ACS.**
- The compensation of the Society’s executive staff continues to be reviewed regularly by the Board.
- Items related to ACS benefits and budgets were reviewed and approved.

Other Society Business

By consent, the Board took multiple actions including recommendations from the Committee on Meetings and Expositions to **change the date of the ACS Spring 2030 meeting in New Orleans from March 17-21 to March 10-14, and the ACS Fall 2032 meeting date and location to August 22-26, 2032, in Chicago, IL were approved.**

They received an update on the status of the search for the new Secretary of the Society. There were also discussions on how to further improve the ongoing process of raising items of strategic concern expressed by members to the Board and to improve Board efficiency.

The Board adopted a resolution in honor of retiring ACS Secretary and General Counsel, Flint H. Lewis.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR COUNCILORS

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

Officers

Mary K. Carroll, President

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Dorothy J. Phillips, President-Elect

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Judith C. Giordan, Immediate Past President

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ACS Offices

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Resources on the Web

Committee Preference Form

www.cmte.acs.org

Nominations for President, Directors, and Elected Committees

nominations.acs.org

ACS Governing Documents

www.acs.org/govdocs