

COUNCILOR'S REPORT

Susan Richardson, Councilor, Northeast Georgia Section of the ACS

Dear Local Section,

Thank you for electing me as your new Councilor for our Northeast Georgia Section! I am very happy to be representing you! I attended the ACS Conference in New Orleans last week (April 7-11) and represented our section in governance activities, and voted on a few items. I found the Council meeting very interesting, and even happened to sit next to a former ACS President (Ron Breslow), which was an unexpected treat.

I learned a lot, and I would like to summarize a few of the activities that might be of interest to you.

Election Results

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following nominees for selection as candidates for President-Elect, 2014: G. Bryan Balazs, Charles E. Kolb, Jr., Carolyn Ribes, and Diane Grob Schmidt. By electronic ballot, the Council selected G. Bryan Balazs and Charles E. Kolb, Jr. as candidates for 2014 President-Elect. These two candidates, along with any candidates selected via petitions, will stand for election in the Fall National Election.

As a side note, I learned how important this process is. Each of the 4 candidates gave a short “campaign” speech on what he/she would propose to do as President of ACS. This offered the chance for local section Councilors and division Councilors to see how effectively each candidate is able to speak and communicate with an audience—something you would never know just from someone’s CV or from their written goals for the Society. It is important for the ACS President to communicate well with other scientific organizations, members of Congress, other leaders, and the general public. This process of selecting 2 candidates from an initial pool of 4 candidates helps to ensure ACS elects an effective communicator to lead our Society.

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the results of the election to select *candidates* from the list of *nominees* to serve as Director from District IV (our district) on the Board of Directors for the term 2014-2016. Nominees included John P. Fackler, Jr., Rigoberto Hernandez, Larry K. Krannich, and John A. Whittle. By mail ballot, the Councilors from these districts selected Rigoberto Hernandez and Larry K. Krannich as District IV candidates. Ballots will be mailed on or before October 10 to all District IV ACS members for election of a Director.

Candidates for Directors-at-Large

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of the following candidates for Directors-at-Large for a 2014-2016 term: Susan B. Butts, Thom H. Dunning, Jr., Dorothy J. Phillips, and Kathleen M. Schulz. The election of two Directors-at-Large from among those candidates and any selected via petition will be conducted in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to the Council on or before October 10.

Re-alignment of Electoral Districts

- At the 2012 fall meeting, Councilors called for a broader and long-lasting solution to requirements that Board electoral districts have parity in member populations. At this meeting, the Committee on Nominations and Elections reported on their discussions of a revised redistricting proposal which brings all six election districts within 400-1,000 members of the mid-point of the permissible range. This proposed action is designed to eliminate the need for frequent small changes for some time to come. The proposal will be up for vote at the fall Council meeting in Indianapolis.

Society Finances

- Despite the sluggish economy, ACS generated favorable operating results in 2012. Total revenue was \$490.7 million, which was \$6.1 million or 1.3% greater than the approved budget, and 3.9% higher than 2011. The Net from Operations was \$20.2 million, or \$4.3 million favorable to budget. This was largely attributable to better-than-expected performance by ACS Publications and CAS, and represents the Society's 9th consecutive year of positive operating results. While operating performance was favorable, Unrestricted Net Assets declined \$1.4 million to \$100.6 million. Finally, ACS ended the year in compliance with four of the five Board-established financial guidelines.

2014 Member Dues

- The Council VOTED to set the member dues for 2014 at the fully escalated rate of \$154. This rate is established pursuant to an inflation-adjustment formula in the ACS Constitution and Bylaws.

Petition to Amend the Constitution and Bylaws

(For Action)

- After discussion, a vote to approve the Petition to Amend National Election Procedures FAILED (85% against, 15% in favor). The petition sought 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.

Prior to the vote, several Councilors spoke out against this petition (for reasons given above—that most members would never have a chance to see how effective communicators these candidates are—that this initial vetting before the Council serves an importance purpose). Because the vote failed, the existing process of selecting 2 candidates to run for President-Elect from a pool of 4 will remain in effect.

Member Statistics

- Society membership at the end of 2012 was 163,322 - 893 lower than the total for year-end 2011 despite recruiting 24,943 new members. The net loss occurred primarily in the Regular, full member category. There was continued growth in both the Student Member undergraduate and international categories, which helped mitigate the overall decline in membership.

Attendance Report

- As of this morning (April 11, 2013), the ACS spring national meeting had attracted 15,596 registrants, including 8,105 regular attendees and 5,793 students. The meeting had 11,232 papers presented.

Academic Professional Guidelines

- The Council VOTED to approve the Academic Professional Guidelines as submitted by the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs. These guidelines apply to those members of the academic community whose job function impacts directly or indirectly on scientists practicing the profession of chemistry.

Local Section Allotment Formula

- The Council VOTED to approve a new formula for the distribution of allocations to individual Local Sections beginning in 2014. The new allocation will be divided as follows: base allotment (49%); per member allotment (43%), and LSAC program funds (8%).

Divisional Activities Name Change Request

- The Divisional Activities Committee (DAC) received a request from the Division of Colloid and Surface Chemistry to change its name to the Division of Colloids, Surfaces and Nanomaterials. Six divisions have registered opposition to the proposed name, largely due to the use of the term 'nanomaterials'. DAC will ask Council to vote on the new name in Indianapolis, with a recommendation to approve.

New International Chemical Sciences Chapter

- The Council VOTED, in concurrence with the Board of Directors, to approve the petition to charter the Romanian International Chemical Sciences Chapter, consisting of the Territory of Romania.

Special Discussion Item

- A special discussion item was put on the Council agenda for this meeting. ACS President Marinda Li Wu presented and moderated a discussion on "What else should ACS do to help members to thrive in the global chemistry enterprise?" ACS has established a strategic goal to "Empower an inclusive community of members with networks, opportunities, resources, and skills to thrive in the global economy." In support of this goal, President Wu commissioned a task force entitled, "Vision 2025: Helping ACS Members Thrive in the Global Chemistry Enterprise," to identify globalization opportunities and engage members in advocacy for improving the business and job climate. Following the presentation, 29 Councilors engaged in a robust discussion on what the Society currently offers or could offer to help members thrive in the global chemistry community.

ACTIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board's Committees and Working Groups

- The Board of Directors received reports from its committees on Grants and Awards (G&A), Executive Compensation, Professional & Member Relations (PM&R), Planning, and the oversight group on Society Program Portfolio Management.
- The Committee on Grants and Awards presented the Board with screened lists of nominees for the 2014 Priestley Medal and the Award for Volunteer Service to the ACS. The Board VOTED to approve the screened lists, and will now vote on, and announce, the winners of these two awards at its June meeting. The Board also VOTED to approve a Society nominee for the National Medal of Science.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Executive Compensation, the Board VOTED to approve several actions relative to compensation for the Society's executive staff. The compensation of the Society's executive staff receives regular review from the Board of Directors.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Professional & Member Relations, the Board VOTED to approve an alliance with the Latin American Federation of Chemical Associations (FLAQ) and to renew an alliance with the Chinese Chemical Society. The signing ceremony for alliances with the Chinese Chemical Society and the South African Chemical Institute (which was previously approved) took place prior to the open meeting of the Board of Directors. The signing ceremony for FLAQ will take place at the fall national meeting.
- The Committee on Planning led a discussion based on its initial findings from the ACS Environmental Scan/Strategic Context Research; and the oversight group on Society Program Portfolio Management briefed the Board on its current activities, including plans for the remainder of 2013. In 2012, the oversight group outlined a process to effectively and efficiently enable the Society to routinely manage, prioritize and rebalance its portfolio of diverse Society programs. Currently, the oversight group is developing the necessary processes, tools, and documentation related to the initiative to put a process in place for 2014.

The Executive Director/CEO Report

- The Executive Director/CEO and her direct reports updated the Board on the following: highlights of accomplishments from 2012; the major challenges and projects facing the Society in 2013; and the activities of CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service), the ACS Publications Division, and the Society's General Counsel. As part of the Publications report, the Board VOTED to approve journal editor re-appointments and an appointment to the ACS Governing Board for Publishing.

Other Society Business

- The Board ratified several of its interim actions, including an appointment to the Committee on Executive Compensation.
- The Board also received reports from the Presidential Succession on their current activities and plans for the remainder of 2013 and the beginning of 2014; a briefing from the new director of the ACS Green Chemistry Institute[®]; and a report on the newly instituted ACS Career Pathways[™] Workshops.

The Board's Open Session

- The Board held a lively, well-attended open session which featured a special forum focused on two questions: 1) “What one thing would you like from ACS that you don’t get now?” 2) “What one thing do you get from another organization that you wish you got from ACS?” Members attending this standing-room only session received a brief overview of current Society offerings followed by an exchange of several ideas on future services and products.

Local Section Resources

www.acs.org/getinvolved - grant information, important deadlines and officer resources

www.acs.org/forms - submit annual reports, record meetings, activities and events year round

speakers@acs.org – nominate speakers for Online Speaker Directory

outreach@acs.org – information on “Celebrating Chemistry” for 4th – 6th graders