

August 25, 2018

Report on: ACS FALL 2018 NATIONAL MEETING – Boston, MA

Four ACS Pittsburgh Section Councilors were in attendance in Boston.

The meeting attracted approximately 14,235 attendees and an exposition of 441 booths.

The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the two nominees as candidates for President-Elect, 2019. The Council selected Luis A. Echegoyen and Thomas R. Gilbert as Candidates for the 2019 President-Elect. These two candidates, along with any candidates selected via petitions, will stand for election in the Fall National Election.

The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of the following candidates for Director-at-Large for 2019-2021 terms: Frank D. Blum, Lee H. Latimer, Ingrid Montes, and Angela W. Peters. The election of two Directors-at-Large from among these four candidates and any selected via petition will be conducted in the fall.

The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced that Council elected Ella L. Davis, Lissa A. Dulany, Lisa Houston, and Martin D. Rudd for three-year terms (2019-2021) and Will E. Lynch for a one-year term (2019) on the Council Policy Committee.

The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced that Council elected Allison Aldridge, Christopher J. Bannochie, Mary K. Engelman, Silvia Ronco, and Frankie K. Wood-Black for three-year terms (2019-2021) on the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E).

The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced that Council elected Rodney M. Bennett, Jacqueline A Erikson, Judith M. Iriarte-Gross, Donovan R. Porterfield , and Carolyn Ribes for three-year terms (2019-2021) on the Committee on Committees (ConC).

The Committee on Meetings & Expositions reported that the total meeting registration was 14,235. Of these, 8,294 were regular registrations, 1181 were exhibitors, 3,671 were students, 576 were exposition only, and 513 guests. The exposition had 441 booths with 301 companies. The meeting had over 10,000 papers presented.

The Council approved the Petition on International Chemical Sciences Chapters achieved the two-thirds majority required to amend Bylaw IX, Section 4 accordingly to read “An International Chemical Sciences Chapter may assess its members Chapter dues to be expended for its own purposes in harmony with the objects of the SOCIETY”.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Committees, and the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the continuation of the Committee on Chemical Safety, subject to concurrence by the Board of Directors.

President Dorhout introduced and led a special discussion on what role(s) ACS should play in preventing sexual harassment in the sciences. He highlighted several recent articles, workshops, and studies that have called attention to the issue, notably a symposium, “Science of Sexual Harassment” organized during the ACS National Meeting in New Orleans. by the Woman’s Chemists Committee. He directed Council’s attention to existing ACS codes and initiatives to address sexual harassment, and offered items for discussion and possible action:

- + More signs/information at National Meetings regarding our policies and supporting information.
- + Trained volunteers at national meetings for reporting sexual harassment.
- + A webinar on preventing sexual harassment for local sections or divisions.

The Society’s 2018 Probable 1 Projection calls for a Net from Operations of \$31.8 million. This is \$1.3 million favorable to the Approved Budget. Total revenues are projected to be \$565.1 million, which is \$5.7 million or 1.0% favorable to the Budget. Total expenses are projected at \$553.3 million, which is \$4.4 million or 0.8% unfavorable to the Budget.

The Budget and Finance Committee considered one 2019 program funding reauthorization request, and on its recommendation, the Board subsequently approved funding the ACS Festival Series for inclusion in the 2019 Proposed Budget and the 2020-2021 Forecast Budgets.

The Society is expected to end the year in compliance with each of the five Board-established financial guidelines.

As of August 21, ACS had 149,584 members, which is a decline of only eight-tenths of one percent from the over 150,000 members in 2017. This year-to-date figure represents an increase of over 1,200 members when compared to the last two years. It was noted that five of last seven months have been respectively the best months for membership since at least 2014. The current membership count positions ACS for a strong close to the year, and there is cautious optimism that total membership will rise for the first time since 2011.

In light of the recent financial performance of the technical-meeting component of our national meetings, the Board voted to approve an advance member registration fee of only \$490 for national meetings held in 2019 (i.e., the current advance member registration fee escalated to account for inflation only); to reauthorize a program funding request for the Chemistry Festival program’ and in accordance with past practice, to allocate on a pro-rated basis to qualified ACS Divisions any net revenues accrued to the Society from the 2020 and future international Chemical Congresses of the Pacific Basin Societies (Pacifichem).

The Board's Society Programs global liaison offered an update on efforts to strengthen the global presence of Society programs to better serve our international members and the global chemistry enterprise. Efforts are underway to clarify and articulate the current state of international activities, products, and services; to clarify the challenges associated with globalization of existing domestic activities; and to offer recommendations for moving forward. Next steps include interviewing key stakeholders, reviewing past efforts, and exploiting existing market research with a view toward developing a strategic plan, activities, and timelines for Board consideration.

The ACS Pittsburgh Section was nominated for three ChemLummary Awards including

1. Most Creative NCW Celebration Using the Yearly Theme
2. Outstanding Community Involvement in NCW and
3. Outstanding Performance by a Local Section –Large Size Category

The Pittsburgh Section won the ChemLummary Award for Outstanding Community Involvement in NCW.

We should all be proud for the involvement, commitment and outstanding work that the members of the Pittsburgh Section exhibit !! Thanks to all for your great work.

Pittsburgh Section
Councilors

Respectfully submitted,
Richard S. Danchik (Author)
Kim Woznack
Robert Mathers
Edward P. Zovinka