Report on: ACS Fall 2014 NATIONAL MEETING – San Francisco, CA

Four of ACS Pittsburgh Section Councilors were in attendance at San Francisco.

The meeting attracted approximately 15,700 attendees and an exposition of 432 booths.

The Candidates for President-Elect, 2015 are:
   Peter K. Dorhout, William A. Lester, Jr. and Donna J. Nelson

The Candidates for Directors-at-Large for a 2015-2017 term: Dawn A. Brooks, William F. Carroll, Jr., Barbara A Sawrey, and Ellen B. Stechel. The election of two Directors-at-Large from among those candidates will be conducted in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to the Council on or before October 10.


The Council elected Lydia E. M. Hines, Robert L. Lichter, Mamie W. Moy, Anne T. Obrien, and Eleanor D. Siebert to the Committee on Nominations and Elections for the 2015-2017 term.

As part of a regular performance review, the Council voted unanimously to continue the Committee on Patents and Related Matters, subject to concurrence by the Board of Directors; and to continue the Committee on Technician Affairs.

The Committee on Meetings & Expositions reported that the total meeting registration was 15,761. Of these, 9,840 were regular registrations, 1,131 were exhibitors, 3,671 were students, 551 were exposition only, and 568 guests. The exposition had 435 booths with 232 companies. The meeting had over 11,847 papers presented.

The Committee voted to recommend to the Board of Directors the following sites for National Meetings:
   - Boston – Fall 2024, 2029, 2031
   - San Diego – Spring 2025, 2031 and Fall 2027
   - Chicago – Fall 2022

Budget and Finance reviewed the Society’s 2014 probable year-end financial projection which calls for a Net Contribution from Operations of $14.4 million, or $752,000 higher than the approved budget. Total revenues are projected at $497.2 million. This is $1.1 million or 0.2% unfavorable to the approved budget. The projected shortfall is primarily
driven by lower–than-budgeted Electronic Services, Registration fees, and Advertising revenues. Total expenses are projected at $ 482.8 million, which is $1.9 million or 0.4% favorable to the approved budget. This variance is the result of lower–than-budgeted expenses across multiple categories primarily in the Society’s information services divisions (CAS and Publications). The Probable I projection was developed using May 31 actual financial results. Based on more recent information through July, management believes this projection will be exceeded.

The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs announced that the unemployment rate for all ACS chemists has dropped from 3.5% in March 2013 to 2.9% as of March 2014. However, the unemployment rate for new chemistry graduates as of August 2013 is considered to be an all-time high of 14.6%. The number is higher when we isolate bachelor’s level graduates, for whom the rate is 15.8%.

The Committee on Local Section Activities will award 14 Innovative Project Grants totaling $30,033 bringing the 2014 total to 33 IPG awards totaling over $70,000. LSAC will also be offering grants during the fall to assist local sections with hosting a strategic planning retreat; a Leadership Development System course in their section, and to assist with travel to the 2015 ACS Leadership Institute. National Chemistry Week will be held October 19-25 with the theme, “The Sweet Side of Chemistry Candy”.

The Membership Affairs Committee reported that as of June 30, the total ACS membership was 158,869, a net increase of 512 since May of this year. The number of international members has grown this year by 312, to almost 25,000.

On the recommendation of the International Activities Committee, the Council voted to establish an International Sciences Chapter in South Africa. This action requires Board action.

The Council passed a resolution commending Executive Director and CEO Madeleine Jacobs on the occasion of her upcoming retirement.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance, The Board voted to approve an advance member registration fee of $390 for national meetings held in 2015.

Congratulations to the Pittsburgh Section of the ACS! The Pittsburgh Section won a ChemLuminary Award for our 2013 NCW program, in the category “Best Student Member NCW Event.” It was in recognition of having 16 colleges and universities participating in last year’s event and the great stuff all the students do to make NCW successful here in Pittsburgh. This was our 12th NCW awards in 15 years,

Respectfully submitted,
Richard S. Danchik (Author)
Mike Mautino
Pittsburgh Section
Michelle Coffman
Councilors
Robert Mathers